■ LIFESTYLE / D1

The new Lydia Velasco

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Senate set to probe use of aggie funds in 2004 elections

■ LIFESTYLE / E1

Cracking the code on getting rich

■ METRO / A24

Parade awaits Miss International in Makati today

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Monday, October 3, 2005 ★★ 68 pages / 8 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 297 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Solon hits Miriam's flights of fancy

KAY DARNA AT GODZILLA, DI' SIYA UUBRA!
GO

By Michael Lim Ubac

FROM THE SPHERE OF politics, the crisis wreaking havoc on the Arroyo administration has now soared into the realm of fairy tales and spy thrillers.

SOLON/ A7

Bishops see US hand in RP political crisis

By Christian V. Esguerra

A NUMBER OF ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS believe that the United States had a hand in the worst political crisis to hit President Macapagal-Arroyo, Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said in an interview yesterday over the Church-run Radio Veritas.

BISHOPS/ A20

Probe plot vs GMA, Gonzalez tells NBI

Santiago's story hard to believe, say senators

By Armand N. Nocum, TJ Burgonio and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IT SOUNDED INCREDIBLE to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez but he said it should be investigated and no one should be spared.

Gonzalez yesterday said he had ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to look into allegations that former President Corazon Aquino and Senate President Franklin Drilon had hatched a plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo from power and, failing that, to kill her.

The Aquino family and Drilon have branded the report as a fantasy.

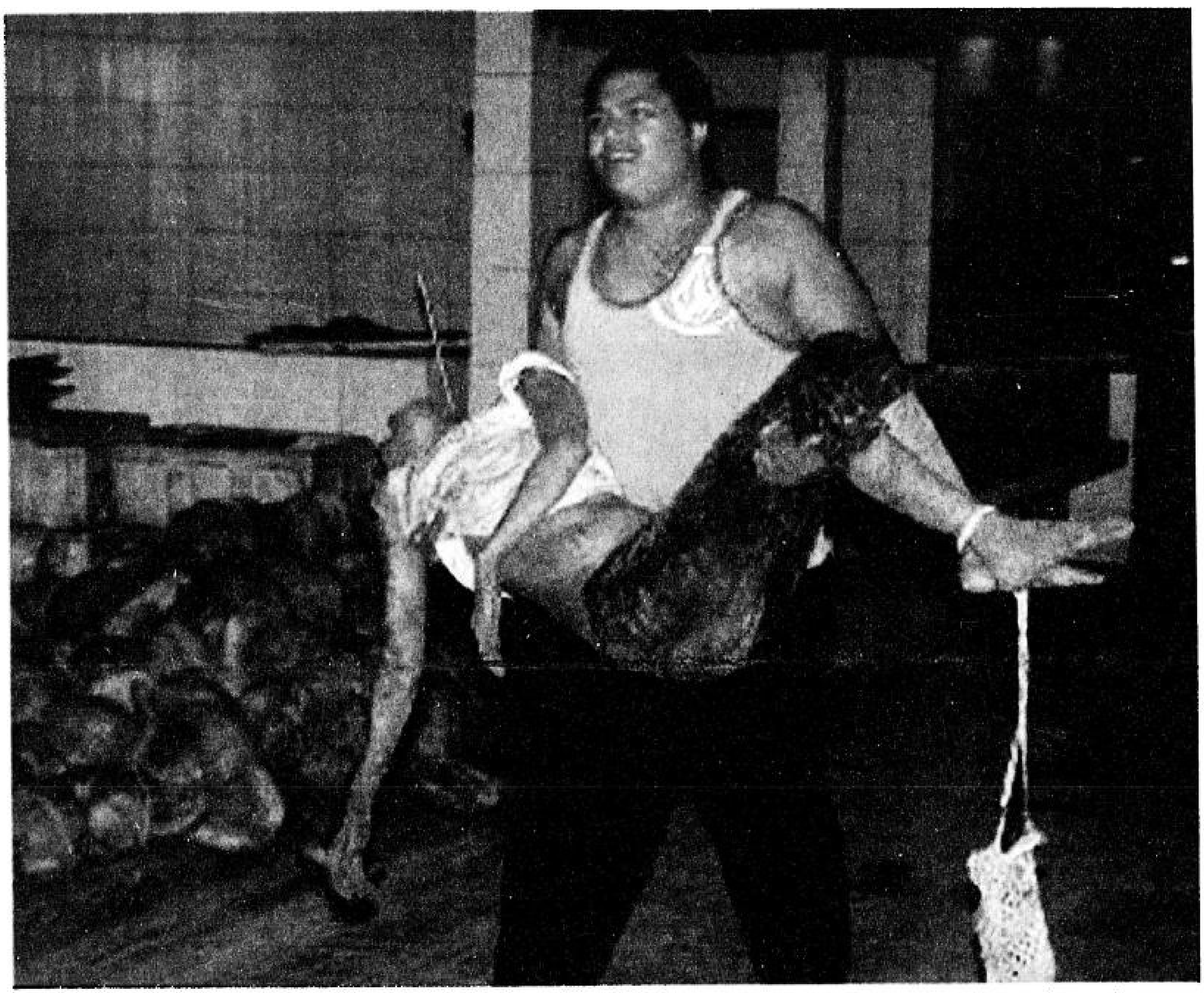
In his memorandum, Gonzalez directed NBI Director Reynaldo G. Wycoco to "immediately conduct an investigation into the reported plot to assassinate/physically remove President Macapagal-Arroyo by Oct. 15, 2005 or soon thereafter based on the allegations of ... Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago."

"Your investigation should spare no one regardless of social or political status," Gonzalez said.

Still, Gonzalez said he found the claim that Aquino was involved to be "incredible ... considering that Cory is a religious woman."

Santiago had said that a relative of Drilon's had been heard "chattering away" at a recent

PROBE/ A4



A MAN CARRIES a victim of a bomb blast at a Jimbaran beach café. Police suspect the Jemaah Islamiyah was behind the terrorist attack. REUTERS

26 dead in 3 suicide bombings in Bali

BALI, INDONESIA—SUICIDE bombers wearing explosive vests targeted tourist resorts on Bali with coordinated attacks that devastated three crowded restaurants on the Indonesian resort island, killing at least 26 people, officials yesterday said.

Authorities named two al-Qaida-linked Malaysian fugitives suspected of masterminding the 2002 nightclub bombings on the same Indonesian island as the likely culprits behind the latest carnage, which has raised doubts about the success of a regional crackdown on the Southeast Asian terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah.

Nobody claimed responsibility for Saturday night's attack. But officials in Indonesia and elsewhere laid the blame squarely on Jemaah Islamiyah, whose members were convicted of the attacks on tourist-packed nightclubs in Bali in 2002 that killed 202 people, and for other deadly bombings in the world's most populous Muslim country.

Scores of Jemaah Islamiyah suspects have been arrested in the past three years in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand, leading some officials to say the group's leadership had been crippled. But analysts have warned that a new generation of militants has joined the group and have been preparing for attacks.

Saturday's near-simultaneous blasts struck two seafood cafés in the Jimbaran beach resort and a three-story noodle and steak restaurant in downtown Kuta. Kuta is the bustling tourist center of Bali, where two nightclubs were bombed three years ago, also on a busy Saturday night.

Maj. Gen. Ansyaad Mbai said he suspected two Malaysian fugitives believed to be key members of al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah masterminded Satur-

26 DEAD/ A22

Big prayer rally honors proimpeach lawmakers

By Christian V. Esguerra, Leila B. Salaverria and Margaux C. Ortiz

LEADERS OF A CAMPAIGN TO oust President Macapagal-Arroyo were hailed as heroes yesterday by more than 100,000 followers of one of the country's biggest born-again denominations.

In a marathon rally at Rizal Park, evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva prayed over Susan Roces, widow of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., several members of the "Hyatt 10" and about 50 proimpeachment members of the House of Representatives.

"We are here to pay tribute to the people who stood for truth," Roces told the crowd from the 5-million strong Jesus Is Lord movement (JIL).

"Hyatt 10" members who attended the rally were teary-eyed as JIL leaders read out a tribute to the group for choosing the "national interest" over their own.

Among those in attendance were former Cabinet officials Teresita Deles, Imelda Nicolas, Dinky Soliman and Butch Abad.

The Hyatt 10, the collective name of the Cabinet officials and agency heads who quit the Arroyo administration on July 8, were honored for "trumpeting their opposition to the ongoing corrupt practices in our country," Villanueva said at a press conference.

Roces, the Hyatt 10 and the lawmakers were introduced to thunderous applause at around 6:15 p.m.

The INQUIRER estimated the crowd at 130,000, including those on the field and at the Quirino Grandstand. But the police placed the crowd at 70,000.

"They are welcome here ... They are proimpeachment, right?" Sister Irene, a JIL usherette, said when asked why she was cheering with the crowd. "We are for the impeachment process not only because of Brother Eddie but because we are for the truth."

JIL, composed of 35 chapters abroad, celebrated its 27th anniversary at the Quirino Grandstand, drawing some 1.5 million members from all over the country, according to estimates by organizers.

Among the lawmakers in attendance were Francis Escudero, Alan Peter Cayetano, Edmund Reyes,

BIG PRAYER/ A20

Swift passage of antiterrorism bill pushed

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo yesterday called for the swift passage of the Philippine antiterrorism bill following new attacks by suicide bombers in Bali, Indonesia.

Director General Arturo Lomibao said the Philippine National Police had been placed on full alert as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Security also had been reinforced on the resort island of Boracay to reassure local and foreign tourists.

In Metro Manila, Police Director Vidal Querol said stepped up security measures had been taken in malls, markets and train stations. Police have also been instructed to be extra vigilant at checkpoints although there had been no specific threat against the capital region.

"We have to keep our guard up and pass the antiterrorism bill to interdict terrorists quickly and isolate them from doing harm," said Ms Arroyo in a statement condemning Saturday's bomb attacks in Bali.

Several antiterror bills had been filed in Congress over the last five years but they found little support or interest from lawmakers. Activist groups had vowed to block the passage of the bills, saying they would unduly curtail the rights of individuals.

"We sympathize with the victims' families and reaffirm our partnership with Indonesia against terror. The new Bali attacks after the London attacks show the resiliency of terrorists to strike targets when our guard is down," Ms Arroyo said.

The President said the authorities would remain vigilant. "We must keep alert and help the authorities in their constant watch over all public places," she said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, in a statement, echoed the President's call for the passage of the antiterrorism law "for the greater protection of our people and as a sign of our firm resolve to help in the global campaign against terror."

Ermita said he had ordered the

SWIFT/ A22

Call center named Employer of the Year

By Irene R. Sino-Cruz
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—eTELECARE GLOBal Solutions' belief in the potential of the Filipino worker helped the company win the Employer of the Year award from the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP).

The award "validates our core belief that if we treat our people right, we will reap many rewards," Fred Ayala, chair of eTelecare, said Thursday in his acceptance speech at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino.

"From day one, we have made our people our top priority, and made investing in human capital a fundamental part of our strategy," he said.

PMAP's Employer of the Year award is given to the organization that shows commitment to the development of its most-prized asset—human resources.

The award gains more importance when one considers that eTelecare is a young company, just 5 years old, compared with other awardees, many of which are a century old, according to Ayala.

eTelecare, which started operations in 2000, now has more than

CALL CENTER/ A7

TREATING people right is the secret of eTelecare Global Solutions for improving the productivity of its employees. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/10/03/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Senate sets probe of aggie funds

By TJ Burgonio and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IT'S NOT YET CURTAIN CALL TIME AT THE Senate.

In apparent defiance of Malacañang, the Senate is pressing ahead this week with yet another inquiry into another potential scandal: The misuse of agricultural funds during the last elections.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. has finally set for this week the much-delayed Senate inquiry into the alleged mismanagement of the fertilizer fund of the Department of Agriculture's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani program in 2004.

"This is nothing more than looking into the basis of the funds... if they really went to the intended agriculture sector, particularly the farmers," Magsaysay said in a phone interview.

Magsaysay, chair of the committee on agriculture and food, filed a resolution seeking an inquiry into the matter as early as August, but put it off in deference to the impeachment proceedings in the House of Representatives.

The resolution was an offshoot of a special report by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, which detailed the release by the DA of fertilizer funds during the campaign period for the May 2004 presidential elections.

The budget department authorized the release of P728 million for the purchase of farm inputs and implements, but farmers and farmers' organizations denied having received any fertilizer or farm inputs, records showed.

The anomaly reportedly formed part of an impeachment complaint lodged by opposition of lawmakers against President Macapagal-Arroyo in the House in July. In September, the House voted overwhelmingly to junk all three impeachment complaints against the President.

Magsaysay originally set the first hearing for 1 p.m. today and summoned agriculture officials, but reset this to Thursday upon the request of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

"We received a letter from Executive Secretary Ermita last Friday asking for a short delay so we can give [them] the possible questions that would be asked of the executive officials," he said.

The inquiry comes a week after the Palace issued Executive Order No. 464 barring administration, police and military officials from appearing in congressional inquiries without the approval of Ms Arroyo.

"I think they're coming despite the EO," Magsaysay said, referring to the DA officials, who include former Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo and Undersecretaries Jocelyn Bolante and Ibarra Poliquit.

'Disallowances' cost gov't P5B, says lawmaker

By Michael Lim Ubac

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ILLEGALLY SPENT some P4.9 billion last year in taxpayer money on unnecessary and extravagant items, an administration congressman said yesterday.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya disclosed that these so-called disallowances were incurred by officials of various government departments.

Andaya, chair of the House appropriations committee, said the amount could even be bigger if the disallowances of officials of local governments and government corporations were included.

Andaya said that the P4.9 billion in expenditures that were disallowed by the Commission on Audit in 2004 was enough to annually subsidize the operations of four Philippine General Hospitals or build close to 13,000 classrooms.

"Disallowances can range from mundane things such as an unofficial overseas phone call to unauthorized foreign travel by a government official," he said.

Without naming names, he said those officials and employees who had made the "irregular, unnecessary, excessive and extravagant" spending should be made to pay back the P4.9 billion.

In a statement, Andaya said that "getting back the money from those who illegally spent them would help the government shore up its weak finances. The disallowed expenditures should be reimbursed by the public officials and employees who made them."

Andaya said that even the Office of the President was guilty of extravagant spending.

"Almost all of the disallowances were incurred by officials and employees of departments. Disallowed spending credited to Congress was a mere P20,000 and less than a million pesos for the Office of the President," he said.

The amount of disallowances recorded at the end of 2004 was about P850 million higher than the P3.05 billion posted at the end of 2003.

Andaya explained that disallowances fell under the category of "expenditures contrary to law" found in the State Auditing Code.

3 more oil firms hike LPG price

By Abigail L. Ho

SUCCUMBING TO COMPETITIVE MARKET forces and high international prices, oil refiner Petron Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. yesterday increased their cooking gas prices by P1 per kilogram.

Total (Philippines) Corp. also hiked the price of its TotalGaz by the same level at 12:01 a.m. today.

The prices of Petron Gasul and Caltex LPG rose by P11 per cylinder at 12:01 a.m. yesterday.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Pryce Gases raised liquefied petroleum gas prices by the same level 6 a.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Sunday, respectively.

The oil firms all cited the significant rise in the international contract price of LPG as their reason for jacking up prices.

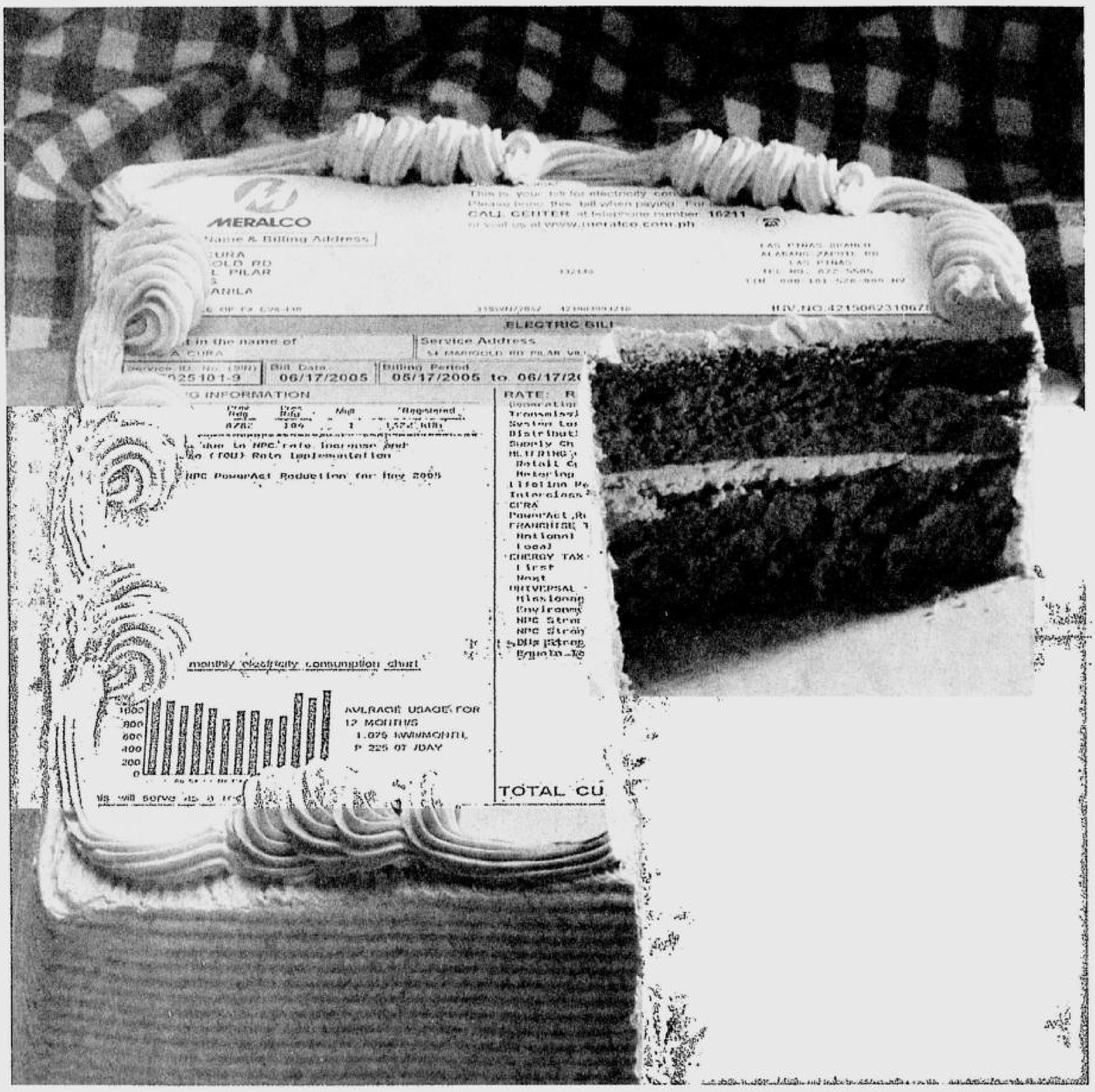
LPG contract prices surged to $519 per metric ton (MT) this month, almost $79 higher than the September contract price of $440.20 per MT.

This increase was the highest recorded since 1999. The October contract price is now an all-time high, demolishing the record price set in November last year of $470 per MT.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the international contract price of LPG was only $404.20 per MT in August and $400.10 per MT in July.

The spike in international demand for LPG last month, due to its use as an alternative heating fuel in the western hemisphere, contributed to this month's high contract price.

Prices are expected to rise even more with the advent of the winter months in the West as countries there stock up on LPG and diesel for their heating requirements.



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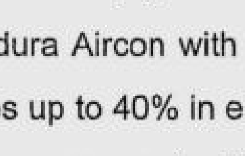
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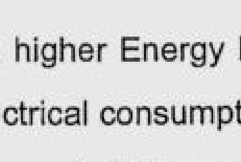
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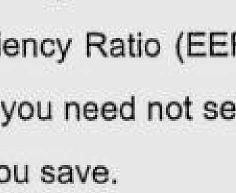
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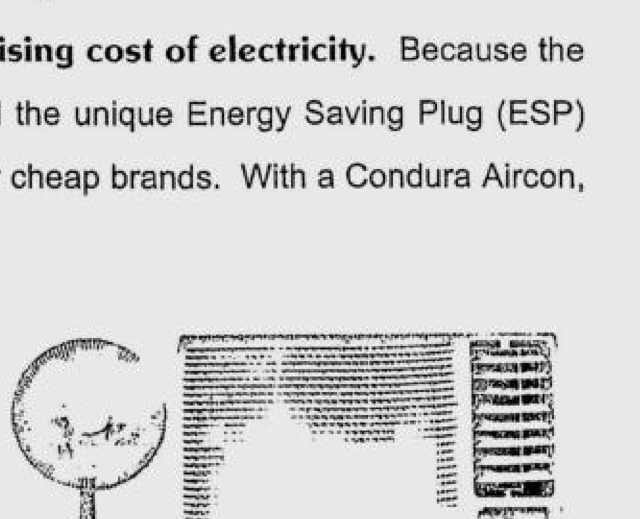

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Politicos blamed for compromising RP security

By Nikko Dizon

A RANKING PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE OFficer has criticized government officials and political leaders for putting politics above the country's security, which has been compromised with the decommissioning of the PAF's F-5 fighter jets on Saturday.

"They are very good at politics but not at doing their jobs," the officer, who holds a sensitive post in the Air Force, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Friday.

The officer, who requested anonymity, lamented that the Armed Forces of the Philippines' modernization program that was promised by the government in 1996 "never took off."

It could have provided the "Air Force with a new platform," he said.

"We didn't realize the money that was supposed to be used for the modernization because our economy failed to grow," said the official.

The Philippine Air Force is among the most ill-equipped in Southeast Asia, with aging secondhand helicopters and trainer jets the only aircraft remaining in its fleet.

The decommissioning of the F-5 fighter jets took place amid numerous controversies buffeting the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

With the retirement of the supersonic fighter jets, the Philippines is practically without an external air defense system.

In an earlier interview, Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla said the retirement of the F-5s was the result of a decision made by the Department of National Defense to channel the military's meager resources to internal security operations since there was "no immediate external threat" against the Philippines.

In its heyday, the F-5 proved an adept war bird.

It helped save the administration of then President Corazon Aquino when rebel soldiers staged one of several coup attempts.

In 1989, an F-5, piloted by Maj. Danilo Atienza, bombed and strafed a Sikorsky helicopter, seven T-28 airplanes and a fuel depot at Sangley Point in Cavite to deprive the rebel soldiers of air power. Atienza died in the assault.

In 2001, it turned the tide of battle against the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao.

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Probe plot vs GMA, Gonzalez tells NBI

From page A1

gathering and talking about the plot to oust or kill Ms Arroyo.

Palace sees Drilon hand

Malacañang yesterday claimed Drilon was involved in efforts to destabilize the Arroyo presidency but distanced itself from Santiago's allegations against Aquino.

"What we are saying is, based on his actuations and antecedent events, the Senate president is involved in the destabilization plot against the Arroyo government," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. "I can only conclude that Drilon had a premeditated plan versus the President."

Bunye said it was Drilon's advice in June that swayed Ms Arroyo's legal team to agree to allow her to make her well-known "I am sorry" speech apologizing for talking to an election official, amid allegations she was involved in vote fraud.

Days later, Bunye said, Drilon asked for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

"If somebody whom you consider an ally does that to you, we know that is something else," said Bunye in his weekly Palace newsletter.

Possible conspiracy

But Bunye was silent on Aquino. "I can only comment on the Drilon side, not on Cory." He refused to answer questions regarding Santiago's claim that Aquino and Drilon were involved in an assassination plot against Ms Arroyo.

Interviewed on the phone, Gonzalez said that those found to be involved in any such plot could be held liable for "conspiracy to commit murder" or "conspiracy to commit rebellion."

He said the supposed plot was a "legitimate matter for investigation."

The justice secretary claimed he had also received separate information that Ms Arroyo would be "abducted" and this was being hatched by the "opposition or those who want the President ousted from power."

'No bad blood'

According to him, he also received a text message from someone saying that there might be truth to Santiago's claim because she harbored no ill-will against Aquino, who had appointed Santiago to her Cabinet when she was president.

"In short, they are close and they have no bad blood. And Sen. Santiago will not drag [Aquino] into the plot if she does not believe that there is some basis to it."

Still, Gonzalez said he found claims about Aquino's involvement "a little hard to believe."

"But we don't know. If you're protecting a very, very big property, I don't know what will come into your mind. Or somebody is trying to poison your mind," Gonzalez said, referring to the government move to hand over the Cojuangco family's huge Hacienda Luisita property to its tenants.

Disbelief at Senate

But he said there was "no question that [Aquino] wants the President out."

"It is a given already ... the only question is how," he said.

Some senators reacted with disbelief to Santiago's claim.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon theorized it could be part of a demolition job against Drilon. But at the same time, he asked the military and the police to verify it and allay public fears.

"On the surface, it sounds fantastic," Biazon said. "Knowing President Cory and Senate President Drilon, I don't think they will be involved in a criminal plot."

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan denied that the Senate was conducting inquiries into alleged government anomalies in a bid to oust Ms Arroyo. He said the chamber was merely doing its duty "to act as a check and balance on the executive branch."

Specters and ghosts

"It would be for the best interest of the nation if Malacañang sees it this way instead of seeing specters and ghosts where there aren't any," he said, adding: "The Palace is obviously in a state of paranoia."

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said: "The allegation ... impossible. I have known Senate President Franklin Drilon as a colleague and friend, and can guarantee that his heart is for the country. Former President Cory Aquino, on the other hand, is the embodiment of integrity."

An administration senator, however, believed Santiago had credible information when she spoke about the alleged plot against Ms Arroyo.

"Miriam will not go out on a limb if she had no basis," said the senator, asking not to be identified.

Which truth?

The senator also agreed with Santiago that the upper chamber was holding a "serial impeachment" by conducting a series of inquiries into alleged anomalies.

"Drilon can't escape the blame because they're waving the banner of truth. What about the other truth? The truth of the objective of these investigations? Is it to find the truth or to embarrass Gloria so she'll be ousted?" he said.

Administration lawmakers in the House of Representatives said the purported plot warranted a congressional inquiry.

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said Santiago "does not speak with a forked tongue," hence her allegations were worth looking into.

Nograles, Rep. Prospero Pichay and Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin said an investigation was imperative because Santiago's claim "validates suspicions that the series of probes in the Senate are part of a smear drive against the President."

They claimed that Santiago, a former trial judge, was known for her "integrity and credibility," and would not make such serious allegations without substance.

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said the very idea of Aquino and Drilon leading a coup d'etat "is laughable." *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

POOCHES STRIKE A POSE

Doggies, all in a row, are all dressed up for an animal blessing, held yesterday at the Malate Church in Manila in celebration of World Animal Day on Oct. 4. Tomorrow is also the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology. Animal welfare groups throughout the world will hold special events to heighten public awareness of animal issues and to encourage people to think about how we as humans relate to animals.

ERIK ARAZAS

Lomibao denies talking with GMA foes

By Luige A. del Puerto

DIRECTOR GENERAL ARTURO Lomibao laughed off text messages circulating among reporters yesterday that said he and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga had met with the opposition to plan the overthrow of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"That's ridiculous," Lomibao said. "Why should we meet with the opposition? We just do our job."

Lomibao said he had not met with Senga lately, and had no plans to see him in the next few days.

Lomibao said the last time he and Senga met was during an official function and he could not even remember when this took place.

The text message read: "Our dearest in the media: Gen. Senga and Gen. Lomibao met with the opposition [to talk about] the impending move to overthrow the illegitimate president in the palace. Let's support our two brave generals."

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 3, 2005
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Jon 1:1-2:1,11**
Gospel:	**Luke 10:25-37**

A teacher of the Law came and began putting Jesus to the test. And he said, "Master, what shall I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the Scripture? How do you understand it?" The man answered, "It is written: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus replied, "What a good answer! Do this and you shall live." The man wanted to keep up appearances, so he replied, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus then said, "There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.

"It happened that a priest was going along that road and saw the man, but passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite saw the man and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, too, was going that way, and when he came upon the man, he was moved with compassion. He went over to him and treated his wounds with oil and wine and wrapped them with bandages. Then he put him on his own mount and brought him to an inn where he took care of him.

"The next day he had to set off, but he gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and told him: 'Take care of him and whatever you spend on him, I will repay when I come back.'"

Jesus then asked, "Which of these three, do you think, made himself neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who had mercy on him." And Jesus said, "Go then and do the same."

Commentary

Jesus is always being questioned: "Master, what shall I do to receive eternal life?" And the teacher of the law already knows the answer! Love God and love your neighbor with all your heart, soul, mind and resources. But he's intent on trapping Jesus—who is my neighbor. Narrow it down to the least I have to do for the smallest group of people. And he is told the story of the Good Samaritan. For a Jew, there is no such thing as a 'good' Samaritan. He is the enemy, the apostate, irredeemable. And Jesus uses the 'enemy' to reveal the goodness of God, telling the teacher that his neighbor is everyone, extending even to those he would rather die, than take help from himself. And the man is furious, for when he must answer who was compassionate, he refuses to even say 'the good samaritan', but 'the one'... he is told to imitate his enemy's goodness and compassion and he will have life now! Our enemies—do we see their compassion and goodness that reveals God to us and imitate their goodness, rather than excluding them and so many others from even being our 'neighbor'?

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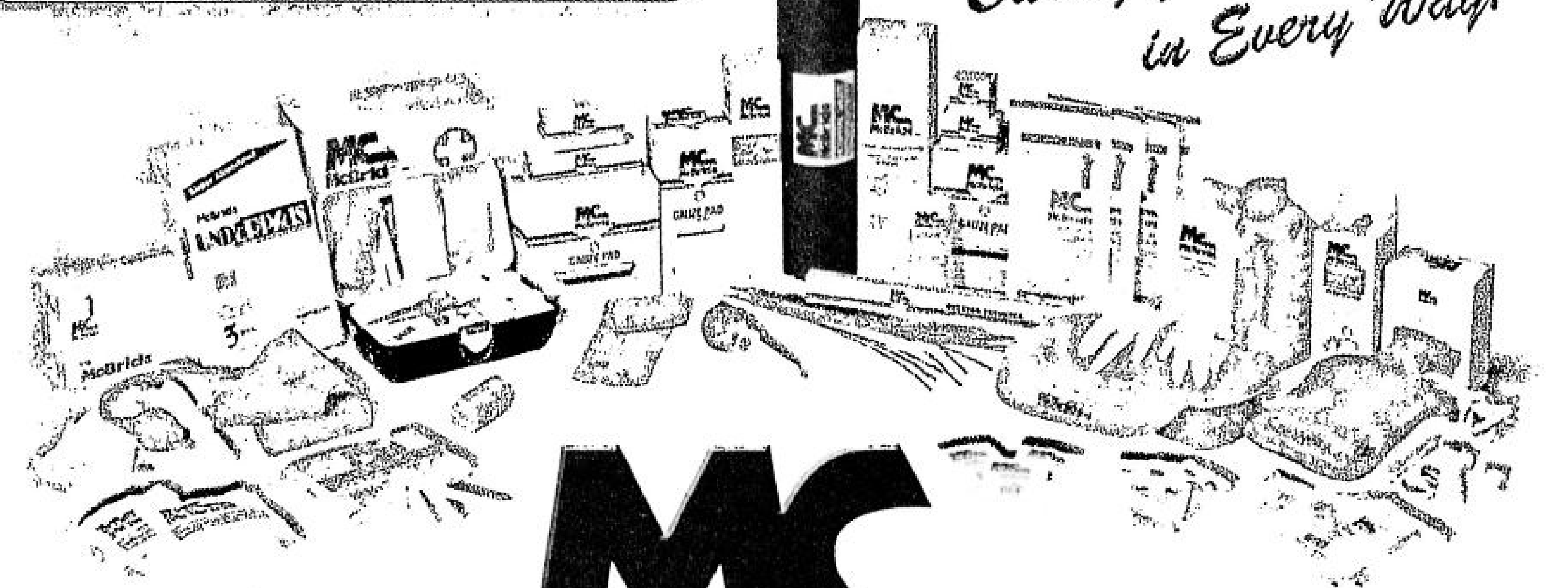

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Prelate scores plan to put up casinos in Batangas

By Christian V. Esguerra

LIPA ARCHBISHOP RAMON ARguelles revealed yesterday purported plans by the Arroyo administration to put up casinos in strategic areas in Batangas.

The prelate, a staunch critic of all forms of gambling, was so incensed, he wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo twice to air his complaint.

What Arguelles found most appalling was a supposed plan to build a casino in Robinsons Place Lipa, which is located in front of his official residence.

He said he wrote Ms Arroyo and received a reply from Efraim Genuino, chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), who assured him that the state-run gambling agency was not planning to establish a casino in the mall.

"But he didn't say that they won't [open a casino] anywhere in Batangas," Arguelles said in an interview over Church-run Radio Veritas.

His fears were confirmed when he received information that Pagcor was planning to build casinos in western Batangas, particularly in Lian, Calatagan and Nasugbu. One supposed plan included a "floating casino."

He said he again complained to the President and was told that she had instructed Genuino not to "enter any place where the local bishop is against all kinds of gambling."

"I don't know if there is any bishop who will ever favor gambling," Arguelles said.

This was not always the case. Early last month, the INQUIRER reported that Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, along with Archbishops Fernando Capalla and Paciano Aniceto, had received cash donations of between P500,000 and P4 million from the "intelligence fund" of Genuino.

Vidal, Capalla and Aniceto maintained that all the donations they received from Pagcor went straight to the poor.

Vidal also said Pagcor money no longer went to the Church after the 119-member Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) rejected the donations, even those coming from legal gambling, since January 2004.

Envoy is only Asian at synod

FORMER PHILIPPINE Ambassador to the Vatican Henrietta Tambunting de Villa has been invited to participate in the Synod of Bishops in Rome from Oct. 2 to 23.

De Villa was the only Filipino and Asian among the 14 lay representatives invited to be among the 26 auditors and auditrix at the exclusive assembly of bishops of the Catholic Church.

The synod is considered the second most important gathering in the Vatican after the Conclave, the gathering of cardinals to elect a pope.

"I have the distinct privilege of notifying you that the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has decided to invite you to be present at this assembly as an auditrix," wrote the synod's secretary general, Archbishop Nikola Eterovic, to De Villa in a letter.

De Villa will be one of the speakers who will share their opinions and observations affecting the Catholic Church, particularly on the topic "The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church."

History confab slated

THE PHILIPPINE NAtional Historical Society will hold its 26th national conference on national and local history on Oct. 26-28 at the Mariano Marcos State University in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

The conference theme is "Focus on Northern Luzon: Local History in the Context of National History," with papers to be presented on topics covering the history and culture of the region and of areas in the Visayas and Mindanao.

The speakers will include Ambeth Ocampo, Delfin L. Tolentino, Ma. Nela B. Florendo, Raymundo D. Rovillos, Arnold M. Azurin, Santiago Albano Pilar, Ma. Crisanta Nelmida Flores, Rosario Cruz Lucero, Digna B. Apilado and Eden M. Gripaldo.

For inquiries, contact Dr. Bernardita R. Churchill, PNHS president and national convener, at tel. (02) 921-4575 or 0918-4444510, fax (02) 926-1347, or e-mail nitachurchill@hotmail.com; or Prof. Fe Leila Eugenio-Guerrero, local co-convener, College of Arts and Sciences, MMSU, at tel. (077) 792-3848 or 0917-570-0481, fax (077) 792-3848, or e-mail feleilaveguererro@yahoo.com.

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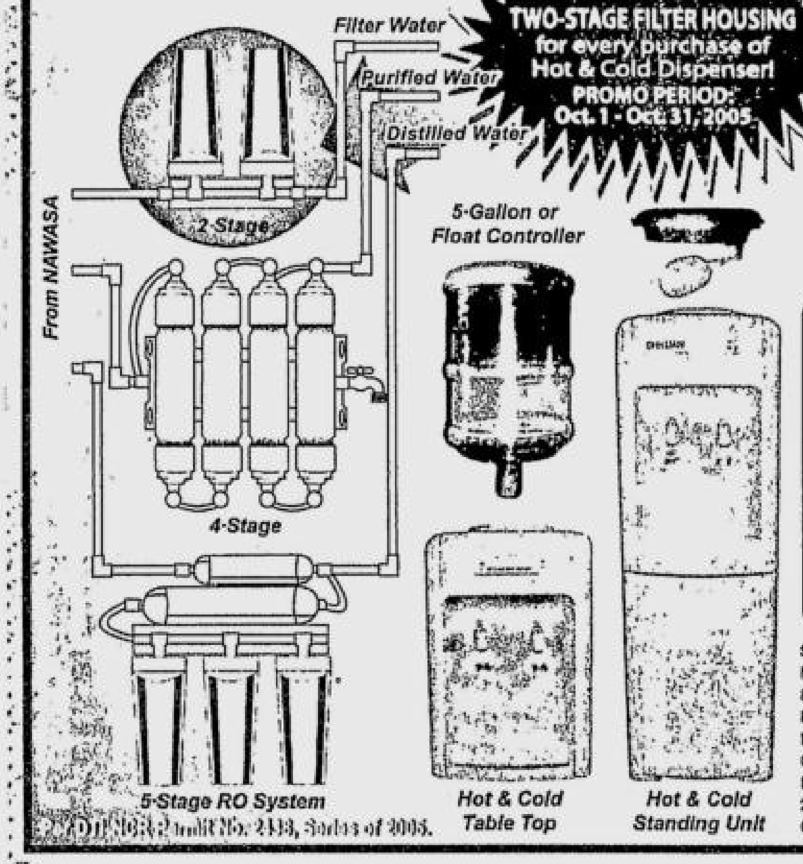

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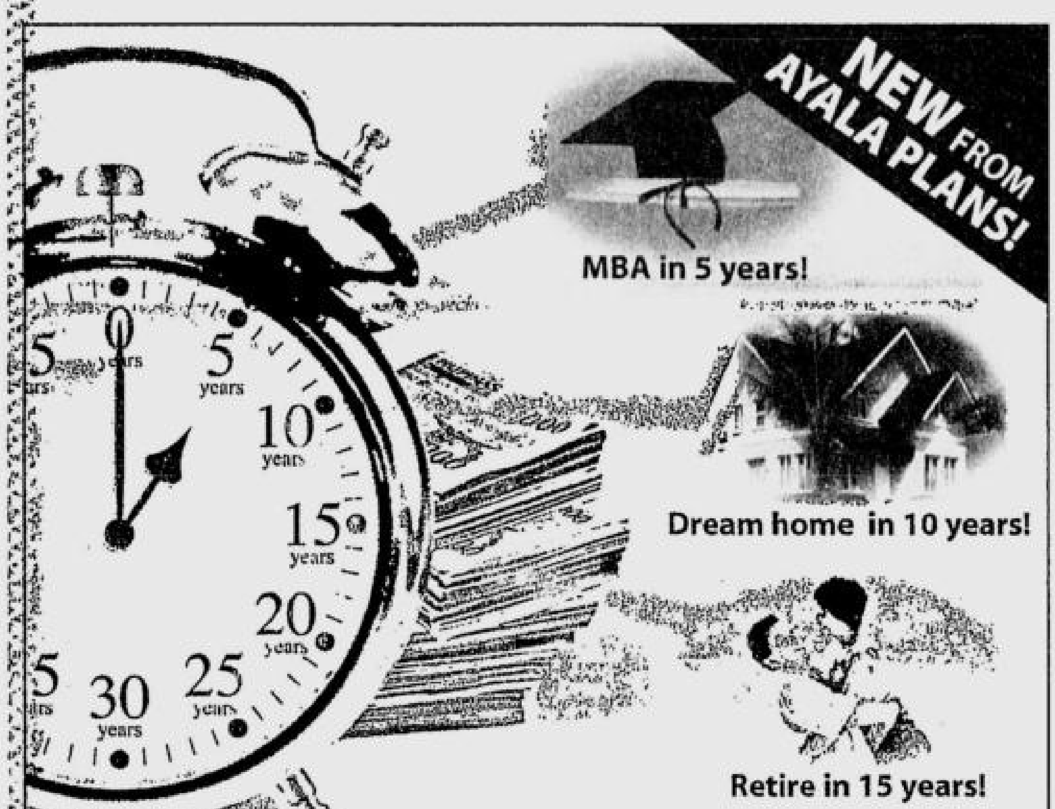

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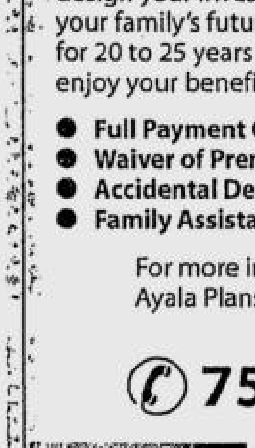

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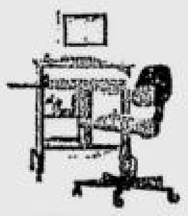

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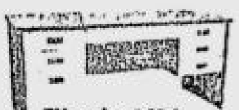

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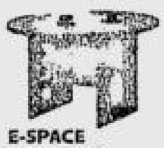

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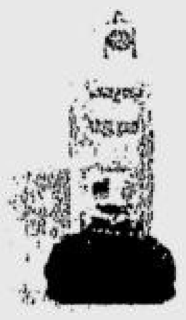

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Solon hits Miriam's flights of fancy

From page A1

"This story is like announcing that Godzilla has emerged from the depths of the volcano, with Darna on his side, to devour the kingdom," opposition Rep. Roilo Golez said in a phone interview yesterday.

Golez was commenting on Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's claim that former President Corazon Aquino and Senate President Franklin Drilon were plotting to assassinate President Macapagal-Arroyo if she did not resign or was ousted from office by Oct. 15.

Golez was referring to the fictional giant lizard and the Filipino's very own flying heroine.

A "fantastic tale," said the Parañaque lawmaker, who once served as Ms Arroyo's national security adviser and is now one of her chief critics.

"Let your imagination soar. That's how fantastic the tale seems to me, but the senator may have evidence which she must present, including the assassination stuff. Shades of Robert Ludlum," added Golez.

Ludlum is the bestselling master of the superthriller, known for his books like "The Apocalypse Watch" and the Jason Bourne series.

Seriously speaking, Golez reminded Santiago that she was making a sweeping accusation without presenting any evidence.

"The assassination story is very, very serious. In the House, if one makes a serious accusation against a colleague, attacking his/her integrity, the accuser must present the evidence. If unfounded, the aggrieved party can file a case in the committee on ethics," said Golez.

He said a public apology "may be demanded and once given and accepted, that's the end of the story."

He suggested that Santiago submit her accusations against Drilon to the Senate ethics committee.

"She should document her charges," said Golez.

Asked which fictional character he would compare Santiago to, Golez said: "No comment."

Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales was in no mood to make any literary allusions.

Rosales, chair of the House committee on human rights, said Santiago's claim should pass the test of wisdom, evidence and propriety.

"I hope that the Senate has some ethics committee to handle and discipline recalcitrants, to put her in her place. Rumormongering is actually what she is doing. That does not befit the position of a senator," said Rosales.

Rosales added: "She is no different from a gossiper. She had reduced herself to that level."

Call center . . .

From page A1

7,000 employees. Its annual revenue has grown from zero in 2000 to P6.9 billion last year.

Ayala said the award would enable eTelecare to correct misconceptions about jobs in the call center industry.

"Many people think that a call center job is a well-paying but dead-end job as a telephone operator. They do not realize how complex the work is. Our people are actually financial, technical and language specialists who happen to use a phone to communicate," Ayala said.

He attributed eTelecare's success to its strategy of empowering its employees.

The company invests heavily in talent development and retention, including a comprehensive leadership development program and supplemental training.

eTelecare also guarantees an hour of coaching for each agent on a weekly basis.

In addition, the company allows employees' participation in company decision-making, even in the design of new call centers.

"We have built day care centers, resting lounges, game rooms and a musical band room as a result of their suggestions. We hold weekly town hall meetings at every site where everyone has a chance to dialogue with the site director," Ayala said.

This strategy, he said, resulted in a strong sense of ownership among employees, better performance and productivity.

He cited the case of Arlene Acleta, a physical therapist who thought of working at eTelecare as an agent for just a year to get a break from her job.

To her surprise, Acleta said she realized that she wanted to stay on at the company.

In 2002, she was recognized as the best Call Center Agent in the world by Call Center Magazine, the largest trade publication worldwide, in its Customer Care Leadership Awards.

She won over 200 candidates, mostly from the United States, and was the only Asian to win this award, according to Ayala.

She has been promoted eight times over the past four years and her compensation has increased sixfold.

Acleta mentioned the fulfillment she felt when the people under her were promoted. "It is fulfilling to look at teammates go up the ladder."

Ayala said Acleta had since learned management skills and had just been promoted to operations manager in training, in charge of a complex program for a Fortune 100 company that will require 500 agents next year.

Benedict Hernandez, eTelecare vice president and general manager of Philippine operations, noted that the industry manpower requirement was quite high.

"The industry is hiring about 3,000 agents a month, at least 300 supervisors and 30 managers," Hernandez pointed out.

This rate of hiring could not be seen in any other industry, he said.

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World leaders condemn new Bali bombings

HONG KONG—WORLD LEADERS CONDEMNED a wave of attacks by suspected suicide bombers on Bali that left at least 26 people dead, and pledged to support Indonesia in its fight against terrorism.

The blasts tore through three packed tourist restaurants on the Indonesian resort island Saturday evening, creating all-too-familiar scenes of bloody chaos just days before the third anniversary of the nightclub attacks there.

Officials said tourists from Britain, the United States, Australia, Japan and South Korea were among the dead and the scores of injured.

Messages of condemnation and support flooded in from across the world, including Britain, the United States, France, Japan and Australia, which insisted it was not the target of the attacks, unlike in the 2002 blasts.

"I think we should see this as primarily an attempt to wreak havoc and cause fear and create instability inside Indonesia," said Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

He said the attacks bore the hallmarks of Jemaah Islamiyah, the al-Qaida-linked Southeast Asian organization that carried out the Oct. 12, 2002, Bali blasts that killed 202 people.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said he was dismayed that the island—a popular destination for Western holidaymakers—had once again become a target of indiscriminate violence.

"The Secretary General strongly condemns today's bombings on the Indonesian island of Bali," a state-

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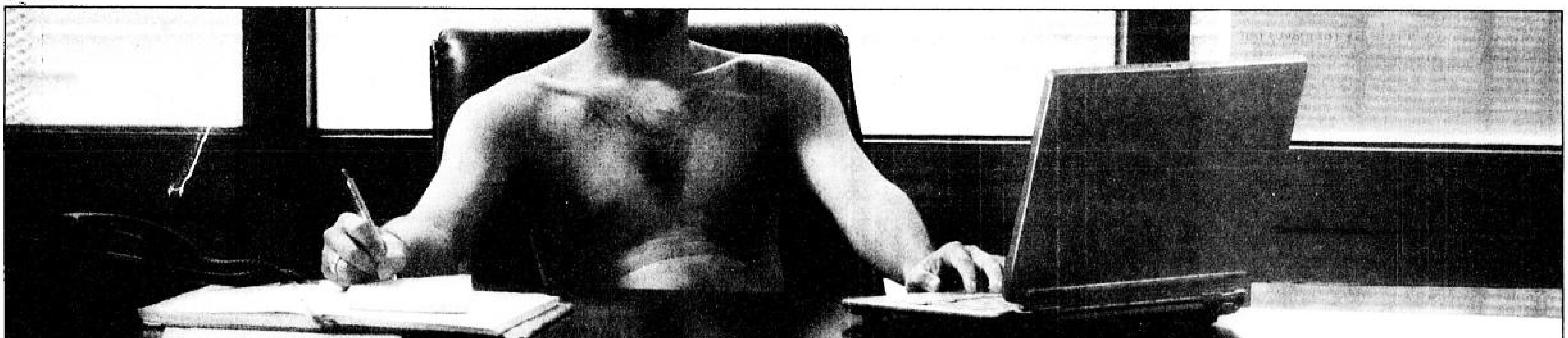

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US forces launch massive offensive vs Iraqi militants

QAIM, IRAQ—AROUND 1,000 US TROOPS, backed by helicopter gunships, attacked towns in the far west of Iraq on Saturday, in the latest push to track down al-Qaida militants they believe are hiding near the Syrian border.

The offensive comes two weeks before a referendum on a new constitution, when US commanders expect a surge in violence across the country similar to that experienced ahead of the first post-Saddam Hussein elections in January.

In a reminder of Iraq's instability, the brother of Iraqi Interior Minister Bayan Jabor was kidnapped in Baghdad on Saturday, interior ministry and police sources said.

The sources said four armed men abducted Jabbar Solagh near the Sadr City district in the east of the capital.

The Iraqi government is hoping military offensives will weaken the insurgency and put an end to the suicide bombings, shootings and kidnappings plaguing the country.

A regiment of marines, soldiers and sailors launched Operation Iron Fist in the early hours against what the US military called a "known terrorist sanctuary" in the town of Sedea, near Qaim, 12 km from Syria.

It is at least the third major offensive US forces have conducted in the area in the past four months. Insurgents have quickly returned to reoccupy the towns and resume guerrilla activities after previous operations.

"Operation Iron Fist began in the early morning hours with the objectives of rooting out al-Qaida in Iraq terrorists operating within the area and disrupting insurgent support systems," Marine Capt. Jeffrey Pool said in a statement.

The US military said in a later statement that it had killed eight armed guerrillas in several engagements, for the loss of none of its own troops. Among incidents it reported were a gun battle in which four fighters were killed and one captured.

Another was killed when a Cobra helicopter fired a missile at a car whose driver had fired a rocket, the military added. *Reuters*

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Aussie family caught in 2002 Bali bombings escapes a second

SYDNEY—AN AUSTRALIAN FAMILY HOLIdaying in Bali during the 2002 nightclub blasts had returned to the Indonesian resort island for the first time two weeks ago, only to be caught up in the latest blasts.

Sue and Larry King and their two teenage children were sitting by their hotel pool when they heard three explosions on Saturday night.

"We knew exactly what it was," Sue King told ABC radio.

"We were here during the last bombings."

At least 26 people died in the attacks on crowded tourist areas near Jimbaran and Kuta beach areas, while more than 100 were injured.

The blasts, while not as bad as the 2002 bombings that killed 202 people, meant the family was now keen to return home, she said.

"Everyone was just shattered," she said.

"We're absolutely devastated because we've got our two children with us.

"This is our trip to come back to try and break the ice and ... we were having a fabulous time but in the blink of an eye it changes," she said.

"We're certainly going to try (to leave) but I'm just trying to keep the family calm at the moment," she said.

"Life here has just gone on normally, there are people on the streets ... but you just don't know if it will happen again and where it's going to happen." *AFP*

Scientists discover moon orbiting 10th planet

LOS ANGELES—THE ASTRONOMERS who claim to have discovered the 10th planet in the solar system have made another intriguing announcement: it has a moon.

While observing the new, so-called planet from Hawaii last month, a team of astronomers led by Michael Brown of the California Institute of Technology spotted a faint object trailing next to it. Because it was moving, astronomers ruled it was a moon and not a background star, which is stationary.

The moon discovery is important because it can help scientists determine the new planet's mass. In July, Brown announced the discovery of an icy, rocky object larger than Pluto in the Kuiper Belt, a disc of icy bodies beyond Neptune. Brown labeled the object a planet and nicknamed it Xena after the lead character in the former TV series "Xena: Warrior Princess."

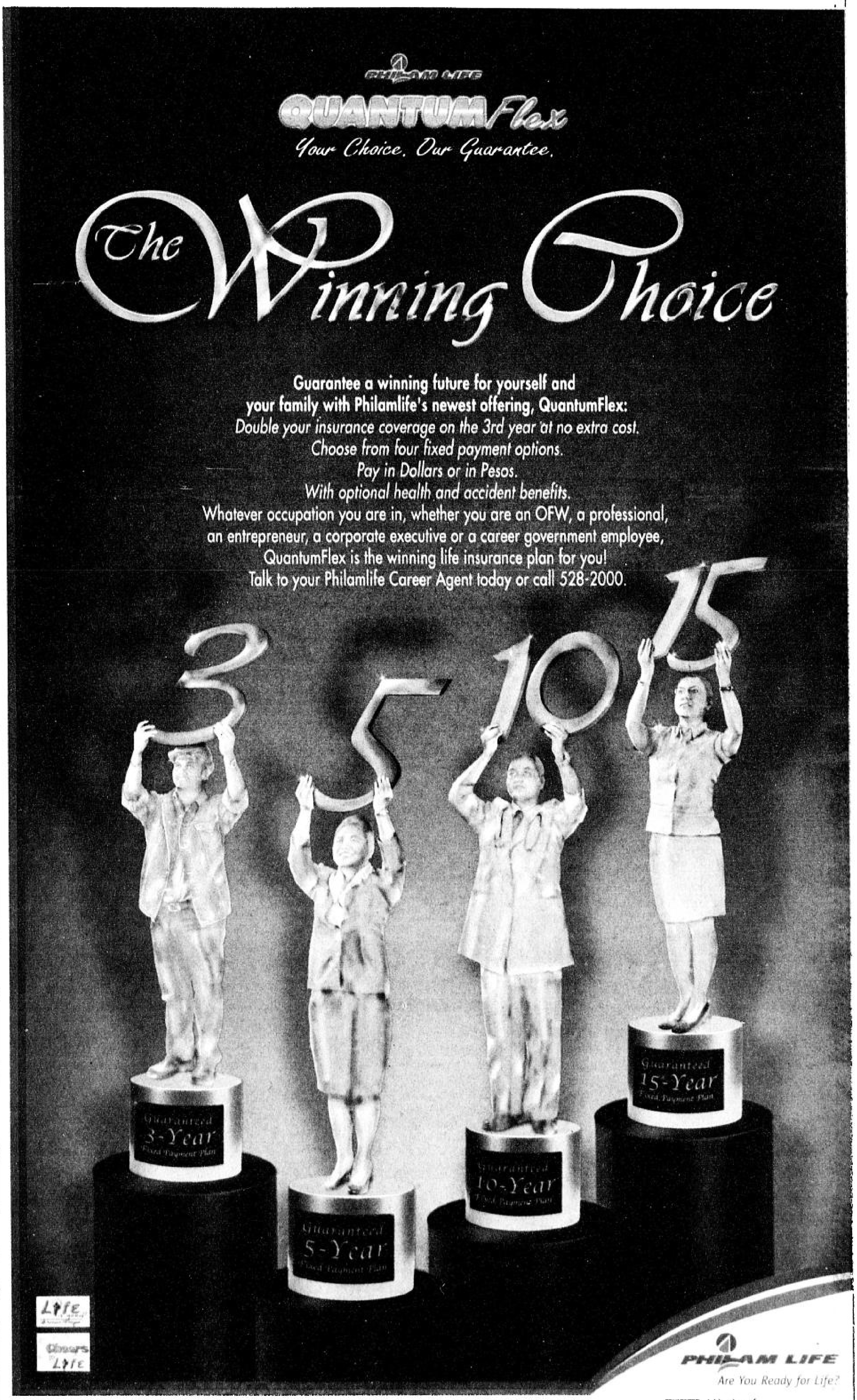
By determining the moon's distance and orbit around Xena, scientists can calculate how heavy Xena is. For example, the faster a moon goes around a planet, the more massive a planet is.

But the newly discovered moon, nicknamed Gabrielle after Xena's faithful traveling sidekick in the TV series, likely will not quell the debate over what exactly is a planet and whether Pluto should keep its status. The problem is there is no official definition for a planet and setting standards like size limits potentially invites other objects to take the "planet" label.

Possessing a moon is not a criteria of planethood since Mercury and Venus are moonless planets. Brown said he expected to find a moon orbiting Xena because many Kuiper Belt objects are paired with moons.

The moon is about 155 miles wide and 60 times fainter than Xena, the farthest-known object in the solar system. It is currently 9 billion miles away from the sun, or about three times Pluto's current distance from the sun.

Scientists believe Xena's moon was formed when Kuiper Belt objects collided with one another. The Earth's moon formed in a similar way when Earth crashed into an object the size of Mars. *AP*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World …

From page A8

ment issued by his spokesperson said.

"He sends his deepest sympathy to the injured and the bereaved of many nationalities as well as to the Indonesian government.

"He urges the Indonesian authorities to act promptly in identifying and bringing the perpetrators of this cowardly attack to justice."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair also denounced the "appalling attacks."

"We stand by Indonesia at this very difficult time," said Blair, who was writing a personal note to Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

"I offer our full support to the people of Bali as they recover from another atrocity so soon after the 2002 attack," he said. "The British government stands ready to help in any way we can."

London's Foreign Office said one Briton with dual Australian nationality had been seriously injured and another slightly hurt in the blasts.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice echoed Blair's words.

"The United States condemns the terrorist bombings today in Bali that claimed innocent lives and injured many more," she said in a statement.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims, and we wish a speedy recovery to those injured."

Washington stood side-by-side with Indonesia, Rice said, adding: "We will continue to work together in our common fight against terror."

Japan also pledged to continue "its utmost efforts to tackle terrorism in cooperation with the international community, and to cooperate with and support the government of Indonesia in such efforts," the foreign ministry said.

The Singaporean government said the attacks underlined the need for stronger regional cooperation against terrorism in Asia.

"This latest attack is a reminder that although weakened, terrorist groups remain a threat to our societies," Foreign Minister George Yeo said.

French President Jacques Chirac said in a letter to Yudhoyono that news of the near-simultaneous bombings "stunned and saddened me."

He added: "France in the strongest possible way condemns these hateful acts."

Germany's Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer also denounced "in the strongest possible terms the despicable attacks in Bali."

A spokesperson quoted him as saying: "The motive behind the attacks should be determined and those responsible brought to justice."

Irish Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern added his voice to the chorus of disgust. "I utterly condemn this barbaric attack which was deliberately designed to kill and injure innocent people," he said in a statement. **AFP**

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
The WORLD
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2005

Hurricane Rita passes, but not financial woes

LAKE CHARLES, LA.—HURRICANE RITA'S powerful winds and heavy rains collapsed homes, uprooted trees and knocked out most infrastructure in Lake Charles, Louisiana, but for Howard Hazelton, that was the easy part.

"The hurricane wasn't bad, but this is the real disaster," said Hazelton, who had to walk 32 km to cash a $425 paycheck from his job as a liquor store cashier. He was laid off from his previous job as a plant engineer.

"I've got no job to go back to. It's been displaced. I'm not sure things will ever get back to normal," he said.

Hazelton, who took the liquor store position after being laid off from his previous job as a plant engineer, was typical of many of the Gulf Coast hurricanes' less-affluent victims, many of whom had been living paycheck to paycheck, and now are unemployed.

After Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Emergency Management Agency offered $2,000-per-household in emergency assistance for victims, handing out nearly $1.5 billion to be used for rent, clothes or food.

But the agency has since discontinued that program in favor of another aid package offering $786 a month in housing assistance for up to 18 months.

"We need FEMA's help," said Valorie Victorian, who had already relied on welfare vouchers to pay the rent on her modest home near the Lake Charles business district.

"My daughters told me the (FEMA) operators were helpful, but it's hard to know what I can get," said Victorian, who stuck out the storm at home with her husband and two daughters.

The needs in Lake Charles are great. The city was one of the hardest-hit communities near the Texas-Louisiana border when Hurricane Rita struck there on Sept. 24.

According to the 2000 US Census, the median household income in Lake Charles—home to riverboat casinos and large petrochemical refineries—falls far below the median for Louisiana, which is among the five poorest US states.

Lake Charles remains mostly abandoned with no electricity.

The business district, a row of fast food restaurants and small shops, was shuttered, with boarded up windows and debris covering storefronts.

But without electricity and spotty telephone service, even applying for assistance is not so easy.

Victorian's daughters—Tekisha and Kendra—walked to the fire department to charge their mobile telephones, so they could call and register for unemployment benefits.

Earlier this week, the US Labor Department announced that another 60,000 Americans lost their jobs last week due to the hurricanes, lifting the total number of workers who sought benefits because of the storms to 279,000.

Michael Williams, a 37-year-old construction worker and Lake Charles resident, says it might be weeks before he can return to work.

"I'm not trying to take money that I don't need," said Williams. "If we have another hurricane, I hope it's no time soon." *Reuters*

YASMIN Abbyad (right), 18, points to debris as Sarah Dunn (left), 17, and Kaitlyn Lombardo, 17, carry personal belongings from Lombardo's flood damaged home.

REUTERS

Iran may hold back oil sales

DUBAI—IRAN, THE world's fourth biggest oil producer, may hold back on oil sales if its nuclear program is referred to the UN Security Council, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in an interview published on Saturday.

Iran has failed to convince the United States and the European Union its nuclear program is peaceful, prompting the UN nuclear watchdog to recommend Tehran be reported to the Security Council for possible sanctions.

Diplomats expect a referral is likely in November.

"If Iran's case is sent to the Security Council, we will respond by many ways, for example by holding back on oil sales," Ahmadinejad told the United Arab Emirates' English-language daily, the Khaleej Times.

He did not specify what he meant. Oil accounts for about 80 percent of Iran's export earnings.

"We have been extremely cooperative, we have had more than 1,200 man days of inspections, monitoring cameras are everywhere in our facilities," the president added.

Analysts had predicted Iran could use its abundant oil resources as leverage against countries seeking to send it to the Security Council.

Opec heavyweight Iran pumps around 4 million barrels per day.

It sees politics and its hydrocarbon resources as intimately linked. Nationalist leader Mohammad Mossadegh, who was ousted in a CIA-backed coup in 1953 after nationalizing the British-run oil fields, is an enduring symbol of national pride.

Ahmadinejad's remarks are the latest in a series of warnings Iran has made against sending its case to New York.

On Thursday, it reiterated it would resume uranium enrichment and stop allowing UN snap inspections of its atomic facilities if it was referred.

Iran has restarted nuclear fuel related work but has so far stopped short of actually producing enriched uranium in underground facilities near the central town of Natanz.

Washington says this enriched uranium will be used in warheads but Tehran insists it is only needed for power stations. *Reuters*

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Guessing game on for Nobel Prize winners

OSLO—AHEAD OF THE HONOR AND instant fame of next week's Nobel Prize announcements comes the traditional guessing game: Who will win?

Speculation on chemistry, physics and economics normally stays within scientific circles. The well-read usually claim to have a hunch about the literature winner, and for the peace prize, almost everyone is an expert.

Yet the truth is, the names of the winners are among the most closely guarded secrets anywhere.

"The Nobel Peace Prize is the world's most difficult awards race to decipher," said Mark Worwood, who helps set Nobel odds for Australian bookmaker Centrebet.

Names appearing in speculation for this year's award—to be announced Friday—include rock stars Bono and Bob Geldof, former US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Finnish peace mediator Martti Ahtisaari.

Anti-nuclear weapons campaigners Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar, 1,000 women for peace and The Salvation Army are also being mentioned.

The five-member Norwegian awards committee will not even say who was nominated, only that there were a record 199 names this year, 36 of those organizations.

No leaks. No hints. No public shortlist.

With little to go on, Nobel watchers can only guess. Last year's winner, Kenyan environmental activist Wangari Maathai, for example, was barely mentioned in speculation.

"It's nice that people speculate. It shows that people are interested," said awards committee secretary Geir Lundestad.

Only a handful of the candidates' names are known, usually because those making the nomination announce their pick.

Nobel "favorites" can be born of a cycle of sheer speculation: Newspapers with no inside information quote observers who don't know, then bookmakers read those guesses before setting the odds, which are then used by the same newspapers in ranking favorites.

"Identifying themes is the main part of the odds-setting process," said Worwood of Centrebet. He said this year those themes could be the Dec. 26 tsunami that spread devastation in coastal Asia, or nuclear disarmament on the 60th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs.

Stein Toennesson, director of the Peace Research Institute—Oslo, is one of the few Nobel watchers to publish a list of his peace prize guesses on the Internet. His lists are painstakingly worked out, with detailed background and carefully reasoned arguments for his choices.

Yet he has been wrong 75 percent of the time.

This year, Toennesson's favorites (followed by Centrebet's odds as of Friday) are: 1) US lawmakers Lugar and Nunn (6.5-1) for their campaign to rid the former Soviet Union of nuclear weapons; 2) Bono, the Irish rock singer,(7-1) for his tireless campaign for third world debt relief, and 3) Former Finish President Ahtisaari (4-1) for brokering a peace treaty between the Indonesian government and Aceh rebels.

Britain-based Ladbrokes takes bets on the literature prize winner. Poets Adonis of Syria, Korean Ko Un, and Swede Tomas Transtromer had the shortest odds Friday, ahead of American novelist Joyce Carol Oates and Belgian author Hugo Claus. *AP*

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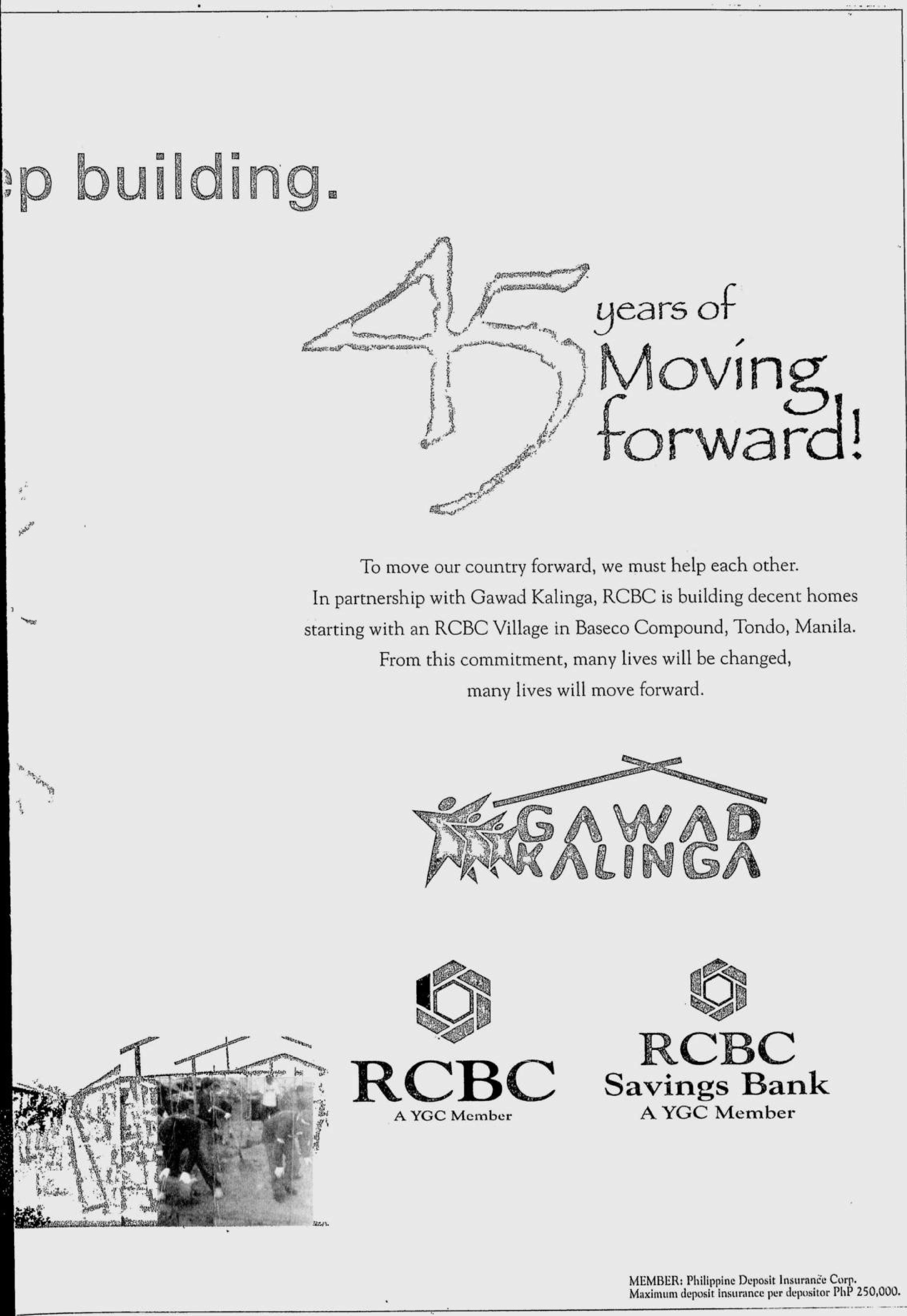
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Israel suspends Gaza raids

JERUSALEM—ISRAEL has suspended its offensive into the Gaza Strip following a lull in rocket attacks by Palestinian militants, but is ready to restart the operation if the rocket fire resumes, security officials said Sunday.

The officials said the operation, which included a series of air strikes on weapons factories, storage facilities and launching areas, achieved its goal of weakening militants' ability to attack Israel from Gaza.

Militants haven't fired rockets into Israel since last Tuesday, according to the army. Despite the lull, the army is prepared to resume the operation, said Capt. Yael Hartmann, a spokesperson for the Israeli army.

"Just because there haven't been attacks doesn't mean there won't be more," she said. "We'll continue the operation when we see the need to rein in possible attacks."

The violence comes just weeks after Israel completed its withdrawal from Gaza. The withdrawal, after 38 years of occupation, had raised hopes around the world that peace talks could soon resume.

The fighting erupted after an explosion at a rally by the Islamic group Hamas in Gaza killed 21 people on Sept. 23. Hamas blamed Israel for the blast, even though Palestinian officials said the explosion was caused by the mishandling of explosives. Hamas then fired several dozen rockets into southern Israeli towns.

Israel responded with its offensive, killing four militants and damaging numerous buildings it said were used for weapons storage and production.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad last week both declared a halt to the rocket fire last week. According to the Israeli army, militants fired 35 homemade rockets into Israel during the fighting.

Hartmann said the militants' declarations "don't mean anything to us." But after several nights of activity, Israel halted its air strikes last Thursday.

Israeli security officials said the operation was informally halted over the weekend. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity under security regulations. *AP*

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 20 No. 297
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•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
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Talk, or else

THE POISON IN THE AIR IS SO THICK YOU CAN choke on it. The other day, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago added to the political miasma with startling revelations about an alleged plot to "physically remove" President Macapagal-Arroyo. The plot, she said, had the backing of Senate President Franklin Drilon and our homegrown icon of democracy, ex-President Corazon Aquino.

EDITORIAL

"Of course, 'physical removal' refers to assassination," she said, dramatically. "Hence, I told President Arroyo that she should beef up her security measures."

As it turned out, the colorful Santiago had, well, only added color to what was essentially hearsay. Her "impeccable" source had only heard of Drilon's "chattering away" about the alleged plot from a relative of the Senate president. And it may even have been a special kind of hearsay: the calculated, designed-to-be-talked-about one. Santiago herself, in a press statement, admitted that "it was also likely that the Drilon relative was merely engaging in psywar."

Thus, Santiago's allegations of a terminal oust-Arroyo plot are not only a "fantastic" claim, as Drilon has pointed out. They are also extremely unfortunate, because they make a confusing situation even more confused. Santiago prides herself on applying intellectual rigor to affairs of state; she herself had pointed out that Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani's allegations about First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo conveying half a billion pesos in mysterious funds by helicopter last year were mere hearsay and not to be believed. Why should we believe her now?

To be sure, Drilon is both a logical and an easy target for the President's closest allies. He had publicly supported her when the Hello Garci tapes first surfaced, even vowing before an enthusiastic crowd in Iloilo City that Ms Arroyo would always find a home in his bailiwick. He had, as irate Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye revealed the other day, even counseled the President to admit to a "lapse in judgment," reasoning that the transcript of the tapes did not show her committing any crime. And then, only a few days after that, he called on Ms Arroyo to resign.

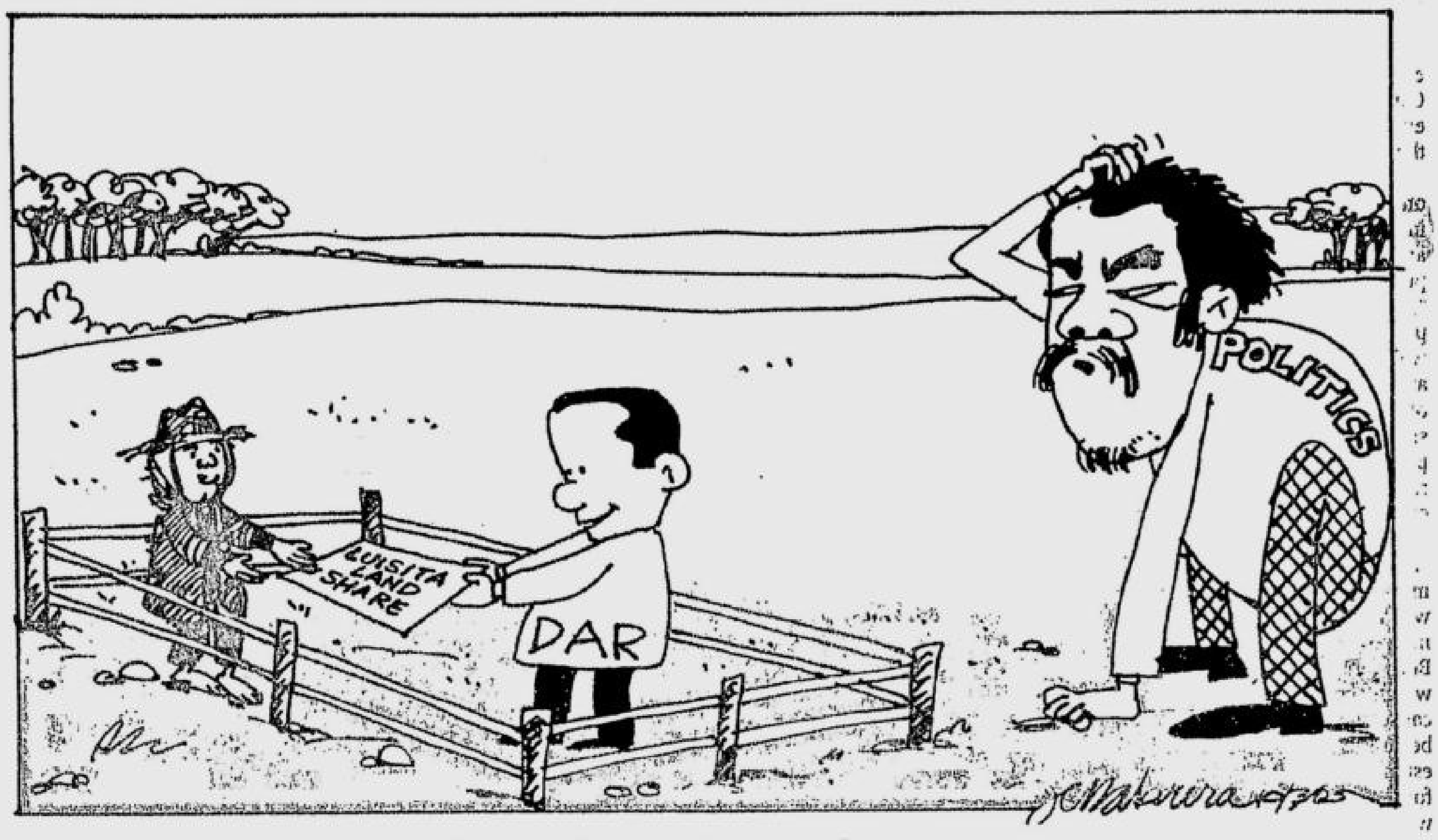
But an assassination plot, with Aquino as a co-conspirator? This is an intemperate allegation, offered without real proof; it is, in truth, beneath contempt—yet another worrying example of the "politics of insult." Drilon does have a few things to answer for to the public and to history: whether his legal advice to the President when they were still allies was trumped by his political ambitions; whether his decision to pick up the pace on the NorthRail probe (first denounced by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile eight long months ago) was in fact dictated by national interest and not political circumstance. An assassination conspiracy, however, is not on that short list.

Santiago's sensational allegation, following on the heels of Bunye's personal attacks on Drilon ("the nerve of the guy," Bunye said of the third highest official of the land), proves (if further proof were needed) that Philippine politics has truly degenerated into rabid partisanship. It allows us to see that the Senate grilling of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales—with its gratuitous name-calling, unveiled hostility and cavalier treatment—was not out of context; it was completely within context.

We need to change that. We need to pick ourselves up from the gutter. Sober voices must prevail, otherwise our political institutions will continue, like quarreling drunkards, to fight in the muck.

Three senators have the right idea. "I propose the holding of a dialogue between the Senate and Malacañang to defuse the growing tension," Sen. Francis Pangilinan said. Sen. Richard Gordon expanded the idea, proposing that the President, the Senate president, and the Speaker of the House meet "in a neutral area," to open avenues "for dialogue, for discussion, for compromise, so that we will understand each other." Sen. Rodolfo Biazon has asked the parties to refrain from making the situation even worse: "There must be an agreement among the three on how to provide the mechanism for a system that will avoid further institutional confrontation."

We should all heed them, before fantastic or worse claims degenerate into tragic reality.



Con-Com already asking for more money

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO ANnounced at the anniversary of the founding of the Kaanak ng Bayan 1896 that she and her husband Mike have forebears who were heroes. She claimed she was a descendant of Rajah Lakandula of Manila and that her husband descended from Gen. Aniceto Tuazon, who declared himself president of Negros Occidental during the Spanish regime. She did not mention that she may also be related to another historical figure—Lazaro Makapagal, the major who led the soldiers who executed Andres Bonifacio and his brother Procopio on Mt. Buntis in Cavite. She also did not confirm or deny an entry in a book on the Lopez family, stating that an ancestor of her husband—a relative with the surname Pidal—was an early *jueteng* operator in Negros.

* * *

The GMA-created Consultative Commission has hardly begun its deliberations and already it is asking for more funding. Right now, it has a budget of P10 million to cover a work schedule of only four days a week until Dec. 15 of this year. Interestingly, according to the minutes of its very first meeting last Sept. 28, among the subjects it discussed were the members' per diems (P2,000 to P2,500 for each), transportation allowance and hotel accommodations. It also discussed the possibility of banning media from covering its deliberations.

I do not know the legal foundation of this Consultative Commission. I went over the Constitution a number of times, but I could not find any provision authorizing the President to create any body to amend, rewrite, or change the Constitution. Under the present Constitution, only a Constitutional Convention, a Constituent Assembly, or a People's Initiative can change the Constitution. There's no mention at all of any Consultative Commission.

Its very name, "consultative," signifies that it would only be consulted by whoever would write the Constitution. This means the consultant would be asked for advice only when needed. But in the minutes of its meeting, it seems that the commission plans to draft the new Constitution itself. It is not only a consultant but the writer of the Charter. It will submit its work to the President who will in turn endorse it to Congress sitting as a Constituent Assembly, or to a Constitutional Convention.

But the Constitution does not give the President—or any creation of hers like a Consultative Commission—any role in the writing of a new Constitution. The Constitution gives that role only to a Constitutional Convention or a Constituent Assembly. The President is not supposed to meddle in such an important undertaking. So why is GMA meddling in it?

I see in the Consultative Commission a GMA railroad as scandalous as the NorthRail project. In Executive Order No. 453, the Consultative Commission is supposed "to review the Constitution, conduct public consultations, and undertake the necessary studies on the kind of changes that are needed to improve the fundamentals of the law." But the very first of its three main objectives is to look into "a shift from the presidential-unitary system to a parliamentary-federal system of government."

In other words, its purpose is not merely to "review" the Charter but to prepare the ground for a shift to a parliamentary-federal system. Indeed, on its very first day, the commission formed a Committee on Parliamentary Government and a Committee on Federalism. It did not create a Committee on Presidential Government.

Two members objected, saying they were for a presidential system. They noted "that the chair has practically prejudged the direction that the commission will take."

Common sense dictates that public consultations should be the very first step to determine what the people want or don't want. But the commission members decided that consultations would be held only after they have written the draft of a new Constitution. In other words, they would try to sell the new Charter to the public. Indeed, one member told his colleagues that their job is "to market" the new Constitution to the people. They do not need to consult the people, they only have to twist their arms, to brainwash them into accepting the Charter that the commission will present to them.

Opinion polls have already shown that a very big majority of the Filipino people don't want a change in the Constitution or a change in the form of government. But the commission is bent on ramming down the throats of the people a parliamentary-federalist system of government.

In fact, it already has three drafts of constitutions advocating this form of government. Who cares what the people want? GMA told them she wanted a parliamentary government—because that was the ultimatum that the *pangalatok* twins—Fidel V. Ramos and Jose de Venecia gave her, or else they'd withdraw their support for her—and like sheep, that's what they would deliver to her.

* * *

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Conrado de Quiros

THIS IS THE TYPICAL LETTER GLORIA MACApágal-Arroyo expects to receive from her Cabinet secretaries and generals whenever they are summoned by Congress to shed light on various, well, lapses in judgment, by her government:

"Dear Madam. Upon my avowal that I know something about the cheating that took place in Muslim Mindanao during the last elections, the Senate has seen fit to summon me to tell its members what I know. This is what I know:

"I know that I was relieved of my duty as head of Task Force Ranao, which had jurisdiction of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, two days before the elections. I know that Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano mentioned me in his conversation with you (N.B. the famous "Hello Garci" tape) that I was with the opposition, which I gather was the reason you ordered me to just play golf in Boracay while the country burned. I know that Garci's definition of someone who is with the opposition is someone who refuses to help him steal votes for you. I know that your husband, Mr. Pidal, brought two big cartons full of money to give to the people who were stealing votes for you. I know that you rewarded all the generals who stole votes for you with millions in cash and promotions on the spot in the institution I love.

"I would like to apprise the Senate of all this. Toward this end, may I have your permission to do so? I trust you will act on this request favorably."

This is what Executive Order No. 464 means. It does not merely defy the Constitution, as Fr. Joaquin Bernas trenchantly points out: "It's a gag rule. She's obstructing the work of the legislature. She is blocking the checks and balances among coequal branches of government. We are still a rule of democracy, not a rule of one woman." Trenchant as that is, it still does the EO a favor by dignifying it. The EO does not just defy the Constitution, it defies reason. It's plain idiotic.

Eduardo Ermita and Ignacio Bunye's defense is that it is part of national security for government to prevent its own people from wittingly or unwittingly compromising it. An equally idiotic idea, which reminds me of a joke an Indonesian friend of mine told me some years ago. Apparently, at some point during his iron-fisted rule, Suharto decided to liberalize things and pronounced that henceforth newspapers would be permitted to say anything they wanted. One newspaper made the mistake of believing him and ran as its headline: "Suharto is a fool." Suharto's storm troopers promptly arrested its owner, and Suharto's judge gave him 20 years and three months in jail. The three months was for subversion and the 20 years was for revealing state secrets.

The only state secrets the more principled Cabinet officials and generals are going to reveal wittingly or unwittingly in the course of testifying before the Senate are that the citizens are fools to agree to have someone they never voted for rule them. The only state secrets they are going to reveal mournfully or gleefully are that GMA steals votes and her husband everything else she leaves behind. In his felicitous way, Father Bernas says executive privilege does not mean immunity from wrongdoing. True: Evildoers may be flushed out by the law, not given refuge by it.

Bunye passionately defends his boss—I saw him Thursday night on TV, looking less catatonic than before. My, they really have to sing for their supper now—by saying that the Senate has gone well past the bounds of good manners and right conduct; that the senators aren't merely carrying out a de facto impeachment trial after the House had rejected it; they are bullying people. Look what they did to National Security Chief Norberto Gonzales, he said. "*Pambabastos na*. Imagine comparing him to a pimp."

I agree completely. The senators committed a grave injustice comparing Gonzales, who tried to bribe the US Congress into helping this country write its own Constitution, to a pimp. *Sakit naman nila magsalita*. They owe pimps a profound apology.

Frankly, I can't comprehend what the bishops are talking about when they say we have to exercise discernment to glimpse the truth about GMA. Either they are possessed of tongues of fire they talk in a language that escapes our normal powers of understanding, or they're plain nuts. I mean, look at what GMA has done over these past months. She has variously: refused to identify the Comelec official she spoke to when she apologized to the nation; refused to allow the public to listen to the "Hello Garci" tape, her goon in the guise of the justice secretary, Raul Gonzalez, even threatening to arrest anyone found doing so; killed any attempt to submit electoral cheating to official scrutiny, not least through the House which voted down the impeachment complaint; banned rallies that demand that she resign because she cheated in the elections; and now banned government officials from testifying that she cheated in the elections.

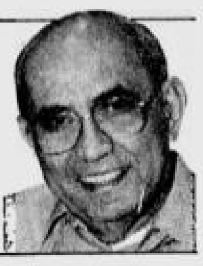
Now tell me: Are these the actions of an innocent person? Are these the actions of someone who has nothing to hide?

The truth isn't somewhere out there, it is right before our eyes lit in neon. The problem, to repeat, has never been: Is GMA the President of this country? The problem has always been: What do we do about the fact that GMA is not the President of this country? Every time I see GMA, Gonzalez and Capalla, I am reminded of Jack Nicholson in "A Few Good Men," scowling at Tom Cruise—after the latter has told him, "I want the truth"—and spewing out at him: "You can't handle the truth!" Fortunately, the judge in that case was not owned by the Villaraza law firm. But do you wonder why the decent among us are dying in droves? It's from apoplexy.

Isn't it time we gave these people a few truths to handle?

Executive privilege or executive folly?

SOUNDING BOARD



Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

WITH OR WITHOUT PRAYER BEADS, THE APOLogists for Executive Order No. 464 have been devoutly reciting the mantra of executive privilege to the point of firmly believing in the ruse as constitutional dogma. But it is hard to believe that the recitation is not being done tongue in cheek.

I must admit that EO 464 is very cleverly crafted. It projects one-half of the pertinent Supreme Court decisions, but it carefully hides from the eyes of the unwary the other half. Let us unravel the obfuscation.

Begin with Chavez v. Presidential Commission on Good Government. The high court's decision in that case is cited as saying that conversations and correspondence between the President and public officials are privileged. This is because "[h]uman experience teaches that those who expect public dissemination of their remarks may well temper candor with a concern for appearances and for their own interests to the detriment of the decision making process." Once a firm decision, however, has been reached, like who will pay for the Venable contract, the conclusion reached is a matter of public concern no longer covered by privilege.

Incidentally, the same decision also says that "In determining whether or not a particular information is of public concern, there is no rigid test which can be applied. 'Public concern' like 'public interest' is a term that eludes exact definition. Both terms embrace a broad spectrum of subjects which the public may want to know, either because these directly affect their lives, or simply because such matters naturally arouse the interest of an ordinary citizen. In the final analysis, it is for the courts to determine on a case by case basis whether the matter at issue is of interest or importance, as it relates to or affects the public." In other words, a mere assertion of executive privilege does not terminate the debate. In the end, an unbiased referee must decide.

The work of the referee is illustrated by another case cited by EO 464, Almonte v. Vasquez. Correctly again, the decision is cited as saying that military, diplomatic and other national security matters should not be divulged. The Chavez case says the same. But when you look at the other half of the Almonte case, you will see that Almonte's reliance on executive privilege was rejected as a ruse. He was told by the Court to come clean.

In the present controversy, Malacañang has relied mainly on a distorted reading of Article VI, Sec. 22. The provision says that if a head of a department wants to appear in Congress on his own initiative, he needs the approval of Congress. However, when a department head's appearance is requested by Congress, he does not need the consent of the President. But when the security of the state and public interest so require, the President should ask in writing that the matter be heard in executive session. Malacañang, however, reads Sec. 22 as a royal prerogative to prevent any executive official from appearing in Congress. The President's power of control over executive officials is over their judgment and not over their lives or movements which may be required by legitimate summons.

In all of this, one must look at the distinction between appearance under Sec. 22 and appearance under Sec. 21. In Sec. 22, Congress exercises its "oversight function" to see whether laws are being properly or effectively implemented. Here the President has a degree of participation because it involves the execution of laws. In Sec. 21, Congress conducts investigations in the exercise of its legislative function. For that purpose, the Constitution gives Congress the power to summon witnesses. The President has no authority whatsoever to block legislative investigations. In legislation, the President's role arises only when a bill is presented for approval or veto.

If an analogy must be made, the appearance of executive officers in Congress may be compared generally with the appearance of a witness in a criminal investigation. If the witness is not the accused, he may not refuse to take the witness stand. He can raise his defense only after a question is asked. Like such witness, the executive official must heed congressional summons. But when an improper question is asked, that is the time to resort to a plea of executive privilege, not earlier.

The "head of a department," who is told by the President not to appear in a Sec. 22 hearing, is similarly situated to an accused in a criminal case. Just as the accused may refuse to take the witness stand, the head of a department, prevented by the President, may refuse to heed the request of Congress.

Finally, I am also aware that legislators may be carried away by emotion or bias or showmanship in the conduct of legislative investigations under Section 21. Legislative investigations can sometimes appear to be not so much in aid of legislation as in aid of prosecution or reelection. But this is an almost inevitable consequence of two facts: first, legislators compete for election and popularity; and second, Congress has plenary legislative power, that is, Congress can legislate on any subject matter under the sun. Thus, not even the Court should try to second guess what Congress might do with the results of investigations. Investigations may be held not merely in support of pending bills but they may also be conducted in search of what bills to file. In such broad and free-wheeling process, abuses can and do take place. But such abuses are not a legitimate reason for seriously obstructing the process. There is neither wisdom nor legitimacy in burning a house to roast a piglet.

Trampling the anti-vagrancy law

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

"ALL I NEED TO MAKE A COMEDY IS A PARK, A policeman and a pretty girl," the famous British director and actor, Charlie Chaplin, wrote in his autobiography. In popularizing his famous character in "The Tramp," Chaplin gave face to a vagrant, transforming this Depression-era comic character into a well-loved and caring persona that moviegoers, then and now, identify with.

Chaplin's "The Tramp" has since become an icon of a vagrant's triumph against difficulties and persecution. Yet, if "a park, a policeman and a pretty girl" are the ingredients for Chaplin's comedy, in our country today, many find in them a typical situation ripe for tragedy—especially among girls and women considered as vagrants or, worse, prostitutes.

For example, from January to June this year, more than 300 cases were filed against persons considered as vagrants—mostly women and children—in Southern Mindanao. Hundreds of similar other cases are still pending in various courts in the region.

A vagrant is variously defined in the Revised Penal Code as "any person having no apparent means of subsistence," or "found loitering around public or semi-public buildings or places" without visible means of support, or "any idle or dissolute person who lodges in houses of ill-fame." The definitions are vague and open to broad interpretation.

Take the case of Vangie and Krystel. In November 2003, the two were apprehended by police officers in Davao City as they "wandered and loitered around San Pedro and Legaspi Streets without any visible means to support" or "lawful and justifiable purpose." Actually, the police officers suspected that they were commercial sex workers, but for lack of evidence that they engaged in prostitution, both were instead charged with vagrancy under Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code. Theirs could have been one of many similar cases, where the arrested women simply pleaded guilty and paid the fine imposed.

But Vangie and Krystel opted to fight it out. Last year, they petitioned the regional trial court to declare Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code unconstitutional, on the ground that its definition of vagrancy is "vague and overboard" and violates the Constitution's equal protection clause. Last July 29, the two "vagrants" got a favorable decision from Davao RTC Judge Virginia Europa.

While admitting that there is "no decision of the Supreme Court that may be found as guide" in resolving the constitutional question of the country's anti-vagrancy law, Europa cited the case of Papachristou vs. City of Jacksonville in the United States. In the said case, the US Supreme Court struck down a city ordinance—"which was much more detailed than Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code"—as unconstitutional for its vagueness, and for the danger of "arbitrary and erratic arrests and convictions" it opened to.

Just like the Jacksonville ordinance, Europa ruled that Article 202 gave police officers too much "latitude for arbitrary determination as to who should be arrested and who should not."

"Loitering about and wandering have become national pastimes, particularly in these times of recession where there are many who are without visible means of support, not by reason of choice but by force of circumstance as borne out by the high unemployment rate in the entire country," Europa said. "To authorize law enforcement authorities to arrest someone for no other reason than the fact that she cannot find gainful employment would indeed be adding insult to injury."

Europa also ruled that the anti-vagrancy law, passed in the 1930s, also "runs afoul of the equal protection clause of the constitution as it offers no reasonable classification between those covered and those who are not."

Although Europa's decision is yet to be upheld by the Supreme Court, it has been lauded by many women's and children's rights advocate. "We hope that the Supreme Court will uphold Judge Europa's precedent-setting decision," commented lawyer Angela Librado-Trinidad, chair of Davao City Council's committee on children and women. She bewailed the fact that the anti-vagrancy law has long been used by police authorities as "an excuse to arrest and charge" women and children.

"Armed with vagrancy laws that give them arbitrary powers to round up children, the police haul them to the station and subject them to physical, verbal and sexual abuse," Tambayan, a Davao City-based NGO that helps street children, reported in one of its studies.

Bills seeking to decriminalize vagrancy are now pending in Congress. Among them is House Bill 4436, authored by Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador. The bill seeks the total repeal of Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code, which criminalizes prostitution.

"The country's worsening economic crisis would impel the birth of more and more vagrants and prostituted persons unless decisive actions are taken by the government to strike at the roots of the problem. The lack of employment (opportunities), gainful or otherwise, (available) to millions in the country forces them to ply *(sic)* themselves," Virador said. Hopefully, our country's tramps, as in Chaplin's movies, will also triumph in the end.

* * *

ATENEO LAW HOMECOMING. A grand reunion of all the graduates of the Ateneo de Davao Law School is scheduled on Oct. 22, 2005 at the covered court of the Ateneo de Davao University, Jacinto Street, Davao City. This is the first ever alumni homecoming of the Ateneo de Davao Law School since it was established in 1966. The gathering will start with a Mass at 2 p.m. at the Jacinto Campus Chapel. The Mass will be followed by a motorcade along the city's major thoroughfares.

* * *

Comments at kar_laws@yahoo.com or karlos_z23@hotmail.com

To our officer corps

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

GEN. VICENTE LIM, THE FIRST FILIPINO GRADuate of West Point, a national hero, martyr in World War II, and an honest and forthright man, said this to ROTC graduates of the University of the Philippines on March 20, 1941, a few months before they marched off to glory and tragedy at Bataan:

"One of the pernicious principles which imperialists have injected into the minds of our people to undermine our national courage is this: 'What is the use of fighting when defeat is certain?' This is both faulty and fallacious, to say the least. If we desire the respect of other nations, we must show them that we are exerting all efforts to build a nation not only strong in arms but unconquerable in spirit. An indomitable will to fight and an unflinching resolution to defend at all costs 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness' are the fundamental characteristics of any nation that deserves to survive. On the other hand, indifference and ineptitude, vacillation and cowardice have led and will always lead to the annihilation of all impotent peoples on the face of the earth. As a young nation, therefore, we must build and fortify our national character so that we can offer our strength to those whom we desire as our allies," he said.

He then told the cadets: "Our uniform does not make the soldier; it is only a symbol of unity and comradeship. A civilian doing his work in the pursuit of national defense is just as much a soldier as a man in uniform, if not better; because patriotism is a moral quality which should be possessed by all. High military station furnishes a pedestal on which the glory of a patriotic achievement may be exhibited, but it is no part of the act itself. It is the will to fight that makes of every citizen a true soldier and makes a nation strong and impregnable."

He concluded with these words: "We are born to live a life which is valuable only if we live it unselfishly not for (our) own gratification nor for that of our family—but for our country. Men should fear not death but dishonor and defeat. There is nothing more beautiful than to live and die for the defense of one's country against a common enemy. There is nothing meaner and more vile than to yield to that enemy without fighting to the last ditch."

Let me add a couple of observations General Lim made in private letters to his children. In a letter dated April 14, 1939, he wrote: "The tradition of this Army is to help each other, right or wrong, which is a fatal tradition, if it continues for the existence of the country." In a letter dated Feb. 1, 1941, already thinking ahead to the inevitability of war, he also wrote: "Abuse of authority is rampant in this Army; the whole structure of our discipline is based on fear ... fear of loss of money; fear of privilege taken away; fear of the power behind authority ... A man can be led, although I admit it to be rather difficult and tedious, in the right direction through sound reasoning and confidence in the leaders."

I believe a soldier's idealism and courage are fostered by esprit de corps: of belonging to a long line of proud warriors that go back generations. I believe in the soldier's oath, in the honor, sacrifice and duty that make military life the kind of life so rare in our country today: meaningful and useful. While your rituals and regulations, and most of all, your obligation to die for country—should it be required—set you apart from your civilian countrymen, we share one thing with you: every soldier, like every civilian, has one ballot. Many of you, like many of us, have guarded those ballots. But some of you, like some civilians, have stolen, forged, or actively attempted to erase them.

The question facing you is a question facing the entire country: What kind of a Republic do we have, and what have we done to make it so divided, so weak, so lacking in the attributes that earn the respect, not only of ourselves for our leaders, or even of outsiders for us, but also for each other? The Davide commission, concluded the Filipino can tolerate hunger, so long as there is justice to offer up hope. It is the question of justice, not politics, that should concern you. There are fears today that you, our soldiers, have taken it upon yourselves to once again enter a battlefield for which you have not been prepared, or which history does not welcome or ever fully praise: the intervention of the military in civilian political affairs, either to topple governments or reform them. To quote a famous general, to be poised to embark on intervention is to fight the wrong battle, at the wrong place, at the wrong time.

We, civilians, are divided because the rule of law has been declared the monopoly of one party, instead of the birthright every person, regardless of his/her faction. You, our officers and soldiers, are said to be upset, angry, even rebellious, and you must ask why. I submit, it is because you, who have been drilled to live by the code of military honor and justice, no longer see both in operation in your lives. The solution is not to allow yourselves to be used by politicians in fighting their political battles. The solution is to do within your ranks what the civilians want accomplished in our wider society: the restoration of justice, an authentic rule of law that does not persecute those with convictions but, instead, convicts those who use the law as a weapon in the hands of a private army. Look around your camps, your barracks, your units: your battle is there. It is a battle to reclaim the idealism and true justice that should be every soldier's birthright, just as a free, civil and just social order is what civilians must establish, purely through civilian means.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

Filipinos in the eyes of a Hong Kong kid

COMMENTARY

Isabel T. Escoda

AS A TEACHER OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE IN Hong Kong, I have, over the years, gotten to know something about how the modern Chinese mind works. Hong Kong parents, like many East Asian people who traditionally harbor big ambitions for their offspring, invest great hopes in their children. One could say this is no different from the mother in a Luzon barrio who slaves abroad in order to be able to pay for her children's education. It's natural for most parents to look on the next generation with hopeful ambition.

But in Hong Kong, I have found out that parents from all classes expect so much from their children that they sometimes overlook the importance of nurturing the child's overall well-being. The pressure to excel applied on many Hong Kong schoolchildren is sometimes so extreme as to produce dire consequences. Reports of schoolchildren committing suicide, because of poor grades or too much pressure from home, have been growing in recent years. The constant treadmill of endless study to fulfill demanding parents' wishes is something sociologists have called a "pressure-cooker life" for children. If steam isn't released properly, results can mean frustration, stagnation or ruination.

One of my earlier experiences with a demanding parent involved the mother of twin sons, aged 13. She wanted tutoring for her boys who, she claimed, were "very lazy" at school and much too taken up with computer games. If they did not improve their grades (especially in English), they would not be able to qualify for entry into a good government school. The two were quite different—Clement was restless and easily distracted, while Cedric was serious and quite bright. Neither seemed to have any outside interests like sports, films or books—they told me that after school, they played computer games or e-mailed school friends. They only displayed enthusiasm for English when I made them talk or write about computers. Their whole world seemed to revolve around the PC. It was easy to predict future health problems (physical and mental) when they grew older.

One of my present students is a 10-year-old boy named Sam, whose mother makes him take piano, drawing and Mandarin lessons on weekends. Twice a week after school, he joins a class to play the Pipa, a traditional Chinese instrument. He sees me on Saturdays for English lessons and always looks drowsy because he says he's only allowed to watch TV late on Friday and Saturday nights.

To vary the one-on-one lessons with Sam, I sometimes introduce geography or current events for discussion. Recently I used a map in which I'd circled China, Japan, Indonesia, India and the Philippines. I asked him to tell me what he knew about each country.

He described China as a "big country with plenty of food, and many people—the north part poor, the south part rich." I thought his knowledge of wealth distribution interesting, and his mention of food typical—since there's a belief that the Chinese (once prone to famines) are obsessed with food.

For Japan he cited "sushi" which, according to him, he liked. What else? I prompted him. "Japanese language is like Chinese characters," he replied. I let it go at that.

Sam mainly connected Indonesia with the tsunami. "Ground under the sea crashing," he said (forgetting the word for earthquake, which I supplied), "and many people die" (I corrected his tense—"died").

About India, he mentioned spicy food, then added, "very dirty." I asked what he meant, and he replied that everything in India, including the people, was dirty. I asked if he had visited the country to be able to reach that conclusion, but he said no, he just knew. So I gave him a little lecture on not making racist judgments about people.

What he said next gave me a jolt. "What do you know about the Philippines?" I asked, pointing to the archipelago on the map.

"Many teef," was his prompt reply.

"Teeth?" I asked, wondering if I had heard right—perhaps, he meant "typhoon?"

He spelled it out for me: "t-h-i-e-f."

"What do you mean?" I asked.

His reply: "Stealing—people always stealing."

"Really?" I asked, "Did you go there and were you robbed?"

"No," he replied and just smiled.

So I asked again, "How do you know the people are thieves (giving him the plural form)?"

He just smiled and shrugged his shoulders.

"Don't you see many hardworking Filipino amahs in Hong Kong?" I asked.

He nodded. I inquired if his family had one and he said "No." (I wondered if he'd say that the reason so many Filipinas are in Hong Kong is because they wanted to escape from all the thieves at home.) I gave him another lecture about not saying ignorant, negative things about a country, and ended the lesson with the question, "Do you think all the Filipinos you see here are thieves?" He shook his head, looking chastened.

I asked Sam how he'd feel if I said Hong Kong people are crazy because they're loud and pushy, and think only of money and food (which indeed many do). Grudgingly he agreed that it wouldn't be nice, smiling meekly as he left. I found it sad to think that he had heard grown-ups making those stereotypical judgments which he had taken as his own. Obviously, being a child, he was just parroting what he had heard. I wondered if, when he grew up, he'd be kinder, and more understanding and enlightened than his elders.

Isabel T. Escoda has written about Filipinos in Hong Kong in her books, "Letters from Hong Kong," "Hong Kong Postscript" and "Pinoy Abroad," her latest.

THEY SAID

Fight for survival

"Much as I would like to send them to the best schools, I have to find ways to make both ends meet for us to survive."

—Gigi Balde, single mother of two, on the difficulties she faces as prices continue to escalate

No surrender

"Surrender is a word that we never say in any of our meetings."

—House Minority Leader Francis Escudero on the impeachment team's chances of reviving the case against the President

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The confusing business of truth

TRUTH, IT IS SAID, IS SOMEthing that corresponds to fact or reality. The question, to this day, remains: Will we ever come to know the truth about the "Hello Garci" tapes and about the corruption charges against the woman 80 percent of Filipinos love to hate?

1. For Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's cohorts in the House of Representatives, truth is nothing more than a tool for political opportunism, a bargaining chip to gain favors from a beleaguered President. Indeed, the murder of the amended impeachment complaint is now turning out to have been done in exchange for lucrative projects designed not for the benefit of the people but for the satisfaction of the lawmakers' selfish interests.

2. For the likes of Sergio Ortiz and Raul Concepcion, obviously, making profit concerns them more than the truth. To them, the search for truth is bad business; a President of doubtful legitimacy holding together the status quo and using to her advantage the morally bankrupt political system, is stability conducive to business.

3. For religious leaders, truth is political convenience. An influential religious organization is said to have "directed" key members of Congress to vote against impeachment. A group of religious leaders did a Pontius Pilate by skirting their moral duty and leaving the fate of truth to their flock.

4. Some TV stations and newspapers sensationalize truth to improve ratings or increase sales. Government TV and radio stations desperately try to improve Ms Arroyo's image, all the while lambasting the opposition as enemies of the state.

5. Though there are well-meaning oppositionists who sincerely want to know the truth, there are those whose mistakes in the past have put a cloud of doubt on their true intentions. Marcos, Estrada and their allies, rejected by the people in 1986 and 2001, suffer the same lack of credibility and moral ascendancy as the impostor residing in Malacañang. The anti-GMA forces must convince the apathetic public that there is a better alternative to GMA. The people have become wary about changing a bad president with a worse one.

6. Ms Arroyo has disgraced the presidency far grievously than her predecessor. Erap clearly won the 1998 elections without calling a Comelec official. In her calloused determination to stay in power, Ms Arroyo has bastardized the National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Immigration and Air Transportation Office, to conceal the whereabouts of her phone pal, Virgilio Garcillano.

The police and the military are fast becoming her private army—spying on the opposition, threatening witnesses and raiding houses of opposition supporters without valid search warrants. She has practically used every means possible to suppress the truth and confuse the public. Garcillano's continued disappearance and Ms Arroyo's increasingly bullying tactics only bolster the prevailing perception that indeed she rigged the 2004 presidential elections.

—ERWIN JAMES B. FABRIGA,
Waling-waling II,
Punta, Ormoc City 6541

No envelopes from Pagcor for the bishops

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO Christian V. Esguerra's news item on Pagcor envelopes for bishops. (PDI, 9/9/05) I categorically state that no envelopes, with money inside and coming from Pagcor, were distributed to the bishops in the plenary assembly held last July in Pope Pius XII Catholic Center, Manila.

Our Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines secretariat was in charge of materials that were sent to the bishops' individual rooms and distributed inside the plenary session hall from July 4 to 10, 2005. At no point during those critical days—as the bishops were preparing to issue their pastoral statement titled "Restoring Trust: A Plea for Moral Values in Philippine Politics"—was there a distribution of Pagcor envelopes.

The article quoted Archbishop Paciano Aniceto as the source. He was out of the country during that plenary assembly. I talked to him and he denied that such distribution took place. The article stated that the site of the plenary assembly was Tagaytay City.

A spokesperson of the Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga mentioned that Pagcor left an envelope at the Tahanan ng Mabuting Pastol, which is in Tagaytay City. I surmise this was the basis for the story.

—MSGR. HERNANDO M. CORONEL,
secretary general,
Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines,
470 Gen. Luna St.,
Intramuros, Manila

The questioned part in the INQUIRER *story was not written by reporter Christian V. Esguerra but came from the Central Luzon Bureau. The day after the story came out, the* INQUIRER *carried a statement of denial from Msgr. Hernando Coronel.*—EDs.

Roots of poverty

FR. RUFINO PEPOYE CABATINGAN admits that the Catholic Church shares part of the blame for the poverty which afflicts millions of Filipinos. (Letters, 9/20/05) While his call to compassion, peace, brotherhood and love has its merits, it falls far short as a prescription for alleviating, let alone effectively solving, the problem of widespread and chronic poverty in the Philippines.

The effective solution has something to do with the Philippine population which is rapidly growing at the rate of 2.3 percent a year. At this rate, the population will double every 25-30 years. This is the principal reason why the country can't get out of the quagmire of poverty into which it has fallen.

There's a very urgent need to cut down this explosive rate by stages, say, initially from 2.3 percent annually to 2 percent, then to 1.8 percent, then to 1.5 percent, within a period of 30 years. At these gradually reduced rates, we will then find ourselves better able to reduce poverty by devoting greater resources to the effort. But the Catholic Church happens to be unyielding in its opposition to any form of family planning which advocates the use of artificial means of birth control. It favors only the so-called "natural" method, which is mainly abstinence, and which, unfortunately, does not work, considering human nature.

Thus the Catholic Church, tragically, is the problem as far as the incidence of widespread and chronic poverty in the Philippines is concerned. That is the hard and unvarnished truth.

—MARIANO PATALINJUG,
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Politically motivated, false statements

VICTOR AGUSTIN'S SERIOUS allegations against Community Organizers Multiversity were false and malicious. (PDI, 9/5/05)

Let me clarify the group's relationship with former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman. She was one of our founders and she was our first executive director. Upon joining the Arroyo administration in February 2001, she immediately severed her relationship with our group by resigning from CO Multiversity. Since then, we have built our own track record independently of her. Nonetheless, our esteem for her continues as a socially committed leader.

Agustin's article insinuated that CO Multiversity received grants that were never accounted for or disclosed. By making such a statement, he revealed his total lack of understanding of the basic rules prescribed by donors, both local and international. Every grant received by NGOs requires strict accounting through regular reporting and auditing. Every proponent or project partner must abide by prescribed auditing procedures for accountability. Moreover, because local and international donor agencies are accountable to their taxpayers, they demand the same accountability from their NGO partners.

The Presidential Management Staff grant that he mentioned had long been audited by the Commission on Audit. Obviously, Agustin did not bother to ask the COA for data on CO Multiversity.

Agustin conveniently ignored the information that CO Multiversity received a five-year accreditation from the Philippine Council for NGO Accreditation (PCNC), the Philippine NGO regulatory body where the government is represented. The PCNC subjects our financial systems, policy-making mechanisms, as well as the status of our partnership with communities and people's organizations, to rigorous evaluation. As a mechanism for ensuring NGO accountability and transparency, the PCNC is seen in Asia and the rest of the world as a model.

Not coincidentally, that column of Agustin appeared after Soliman alleged that President Macapagal-Arroyo interfered in the impeachment process. Clearly, Agustin's statement is aimed at destroying the credibility of Soliman and by extension her former organization, CO Multiversity. NGOs, like CO Multiversity, have enabled groups in crowded city slums and remote villages in the poorest towns of Mindanao to move toward the better life denied them by their exclusion from the benefits enjoyed by better-off, city-based observers like Agustin.

Agustin's column undermined the sacrifices of dedicated NGO staff and PO partners to provide marginalized communities access to basic services and participation in decision-making; and denigrated the engagement of local and international donors with NGOs.

CO Multiversity demands an apology from Agustin for his politically motivated and false statements.

—MARIA FIDES F. BAGASAO,
executive director,
Community Organizers Multiversity, 23-B Matulungin St.,
Barangay Central, Quezon City

Tourism should be politics-free

THIS REFERS TO THE NEWS REports on the tourist influx in the Philippines, which is said to be increasing at a commendable rate. Specifically mentioned were the Koreans making the Philippines their No. 1 tourist destination.

I just got back from Boracay for a seminar. It was pleasant to see that the hotels and resorts there are fully booked even during this lean season and on to the rest of the year.

Unfortunately, Boracay, the show window of Philippine tourism, is faced with the challenge of waste management. The failure to meet this challenge head-on could take a heavy toll on the resort island's pristine beauty and attraction.

Fortunately, Dean Barbers, the general manager of the Philippine Tourism Authority, has taken a proactive approach in ensuring a safe and sound waste management system whereby wastewater and sludge generated by the households and business establishments in the island will be treated and converted into organic fertilizer.

Certainly, this is good news. For in the face of the worsening problems of the nation, there is hope and, at least in tourism, hope springs eternal.

I appeal to Tourism Secretary Ace Durano and PTA General Manager Barbers to continue focusing on their jobs in promoting tourism development. They should not allow themselves to be affected by the political turmoil that has swept our country.

Aside from the overseas Filipino workers, tourism contributes significantly to the country's dollar earnings, to job generation and to the growth of local SMEs. Both are among the few national public officials doing well for our country. They should not allow the tourism industry to be politicized.

—CHIC-CHIC MAGPAYO,
1136 Champaca St.,
Polomolok, South Cotabato

Most painful tragedy for our heroes

FILMS ABOUT WORLD WAR II are now a rarity. This is unfortunate because while watching the movie, "The Great Raid," I never felt so proud of what our people in the underground movement did in the final stage of our country's quest for independence. Although the film is the story about the rescue of American prisoners of war, it highlights the noblest character of the Filipinos in the unselfish love of country shown by the guerillas-soldiers and civilians alike, who volunteered to join the heroic military operation.

War films can be a better medium than history books for telling the young what happened in the past, and in nurturing in them a sense of pride in being a Filipino. I suggest that, in lieu of the annual field trips, this film and others of its kind be shown to the young so that they will have a better appreciation of our heroes.

"The Great Raid" affirms that Filipinos are freedom-loving people. But did our martyrs die in vain?

To begin with, today's generals who are receiving higher pay and are working in air-conditioned, well-furbished offices pocket millions of pesos in kickbacks; while lowly, ordinary soldiers, who are out in the trenches and frontlines risking their lives to protect our people from state enemies, are left without boots, without helmets, without the necessary gear to fight a war, but their salaries can hardly sustain a decent life and feed their families.

Instead of helping ensure a bright future for our young, government officials enrich themselves by stealing public funds meant for job-generating projects. And so thousands of Filipino workers have to look for another job every six months—this is assuming they are now employed—because most companies claim they cannot absorb their casuals into their regular work force due to the economic crunch. Aggravating the poverty of our people are the skyrocketing prices of oil products.

Jesus, in the parable of the talents, clearly preaches personal accountability from which no one—and certainly not a person who has been given authority over others—can hope to escape. All public officials have been given the special opportunity (read: talent) to govern wisely and to serve with unselfish heart the common good. But how many in Congress and the executive branch use this talent to make life a little better for our people? How many of them, instead, make use of this talent just to advance their personal agenda for power, wealth and fame?

With statesmanship rarely seen among our public officials, our martyred heroes seem to have shed their blood in vain.

—MARY JOAN A. ANGELES,
6 Pinto St., Rancho Estate I,
Marikina City

President Arroyo's next move

I BELIEVE THAT GOD ALLOWED President Macapagal-Arroyo to win her impeachment battle in Congress, and He must have a strong reason for doing so.

I now beg Ms Arroyo to sincerely reflect and ask why many of her people continue to oppose her. I now beg her to look back and resolve that the sin committed in the past may no longer be repeated.

Perhaps, all that God wishes Ms Arroyo to do is to learn from her past. Then and only then can she carry on the task of leading her people to a better and bright future.

—SALLY DATOC,
92 Bignay St., Project 2;
Quezon City

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Veggie industry faces bleak future

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE PROVINCE'S vegetable industry, like other domestic industries, would face a bleak future under a reduced tariff scheme of international trade in the next few years, a group of business leaders said in a paper.

The group, called Fair Trade Alliance (FTA), recently said in a paper that vegetable farmers stand to lose more in a local market where prices and the law of supply and demand would be dictated by competition from the entry of foreign vegetables.

The FTA's 119-page paper, the "Nationalist Development Agenda," blamed the country's trade commitments to the General Agreement on Tariffs Trade (GATT), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and bilateral trade pacts for the problems facing the vegetable industry.

Vegetable industry leaders here recently obtained copies of the paper.

These commitments, the FTA said, had made the country one of the most open economies in Asia today, due largely to the adoption of a tariff liberalization policy that has affected all sectors, including agriculture.

Board Member John Kim said the FTA's prediction of uncertainty in the vegetable industry is now being confirmed by bilateral trade talks the government had signed or are negotiating with other countries.

Negotiations for tariff reduction for product exchanges with Korea, the United States and Japan are in the drawing board, he said.

An early harvest program (EHP) had been concluded in April between the country and China to facilitate a free trade system that will be in full scale by 2010.

The FTA paper said Cordillera farmers have reacted negatively to the EHP because of fears that the local market would soon be flooded with cheap Chinese vegetables.

A remedy, Kim said, is to ask the country's Tariff Commission to impose the highest allowable tax on foreign vegetables once importers attempt to bring them into the local market.

He said to justify the imposition of a levy on foreign products, Benguet's major vegetables must first be included in the commission's "sensitive track," a list of cash value crops, as a safeguard against the surge of vegetable imports.

In a letter to Commissioner Edgardo Abon of the Tariff Commission, Kim asked that Benguet's potatoes, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, mushroom, celery, red pepper, green pepper and cabbage be included in the list.

Kim, chair of the provincial board's committee on agriculture, agreed with the FTA's observation that the country's vegetables would fare poorly under a reduced tariff scheme because in other countries, the government subsidizes the vegetable industry.

"There should be no reduction in agricultural tariffs and the foreign counterparts of the 10 Benguet vegetables must be slapped the maximum tariff of 40 percent," he said.

The FTA paper said vegetable farmers from Benguet and Mt. Province have been complaining about the influx of imported and smuggled vegetables since 2001.

It said that the country imports 30 kinds of vegetables and the volume of imports had grown since the country became a member of the WTO in 1995. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati, City
Philippines

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

This is in reaction to a news item published in the PDI dated September 19, 2005, entitled "*Defensor keeps hands off park row*". As regard the construction of the proposed 2-storey DepEd-Manila Administration Building at the Arroceros Park, we reiterate that we have gone through the rigid process of securing all the necessary permits and have complied with all the requirements asked for by the DENR and the LLDA.

Since the purchase of the Arroceros property by the city government of Manila on December 23, 1993, seeing a Division office built in that site which the Division of City Schools of Manila can call its own has been the dream of all its past and present school superintendents and division personnel. The building will enable the Division of City Schools to efficiently serve the more than 285,181 pupils and students.

Per the request of the Division of City Schools, the City School Board approved the yearly allocation of P20 M from the Special Education Fund to finance the construction. Now that enough funds have been saved, DCS Manila feels it is high time to realize that dream.

To have this administration building built soon is an extreme necessity for the Division of Manila, for this will not only house the offices of DCS officials but will also serve as the hub for administrative services that will cater to the needs of the 167 school administrators, supervisors, and the more than 13,238 teaching and non-teaching personnel. It will also provide venue for seminars, conferences, and trainings which are related to instructional and supervisory matters.

Hence, the move of Mayor Atienza in pushing for the construction of that building is bereft of any political influence which the said news item tries to insinuate. The construction of the building is a dream coming true for the teachers and non-teaching employees of DepEd-Manila. We are just indeed very fortunate to have the support of our City Mayor who knows and understands what is best for the education sector and for the school children of Manila.

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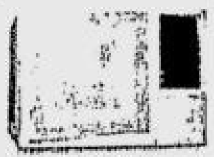

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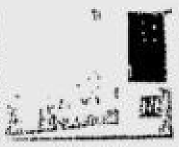

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DENR exec won't extend Quezon log ban suspension

TAYABAS, QUEZON—THE TOP official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Southern Tagalog Region said he would not recommend the extension of the 60-day temporary suspension of log ban in Quezon which ended yesterday.

"I'm not inclined to recommend the extension of the temporary suspension [of the log ban]. There are no more drifted logs to be gathered," regional DENR-Calabarzon executive director Antonio Principe told the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

DENR Secretary Michael Defensor on Aug. 2, issued a memorandum allowing the retrieval and movement of logs and wood products in Quezon and Aurora for 60 days as part of the government's disaster preparedness program. The period covered by the order ended on Oct 2.

Last week, local officials, furniture makers, charcoal producers, indigenous and religious people in Real, Infanta, and General Nakar (Reina) have appealed to the DENR to extend the suspension for another 90 days, or until Christmas season.

Principe said he had ordered the DENR office in Real to conduct a "pictorial documentation" on the Agos-Kanan river to verify the claim by Dumagat leaders that a big volume of drifted logs remain in the upper portion of the Sierra Madre.

"What I've been receiving were unconfirmed reports that the natives were involved in unlawful cutting of trees. If the reports were true, I want them to stop the cutting," he added.

Principe added that the total number of inventoried sacks of charcoal before the suspension of log ban, which is around 140,000 sacks, had all been transported out of northern Quezon.

"Based on our latest records, some 160,000 sacks of charcoal have already been sold," he said.

He maintained that the charcoal makers have now more than P1.6 million, which he said, could be used for other livelihood endeavor.

He said that including the money that the wood-based industry have derived after disposing their stocks of finished and semi-finished wood products, the local wood economy has more than enough money to tide them over until the DENR was through with its study on the next best option to take," he said.

Principe also ordered the dismantling of all machinery and equipment used in the sawing and cutting of drifted logs under pain of confiscation should they disobey the order.

Lawyer Asis Perez, executive director of Tanggol Kalikasan, an environmental legal defense center, urged the government to strike a balance between regulation and the economic need of the people.

He said Defensor should explore the possibilities of extending the deadline.

"The DENR should allow the people to benefit from [the uncollected logs] instead of just allowing them to rot," Perez said.

In Real town, the Community Environment and Natural Resource Office have been busy processing the papers of wood-based industry stakeholders who all want to beat the Sunday deadline.

"My staff were all volunteering to still stay after office hours just to serve the throngs of permit applicants, mostly ordinary charcoal makers," Antonio Diwa of Cenro told the INQUIRER.

This correspondent was swamped with requests from charcoal makers to write reports about their sorry plight. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

A TRUCKLOAD of wood charcoal from northern Quezon rushes its way out of the province to beat the suspension deadline.
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Germany funds ₱603M reforestation project

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A REFORESTATION project worth about Euro 9 million will be implemented early next year on Negros and Panay Islands, said Julian Amador, Department of Environment and Natural Resources executive director for Central Visayas.

He said the funds, which is approximately P603 million at P67 per one Euro, are part of the commitment of the Federal Government of Germany to provide more than Euro 73.3 million in financial and technical support to the Philippines as agreed upon during a bilateral negotiation held in Dauin town last May.

According to Amador, about Euro 5 million would be in a soft loan to the national government while the Euro 4 million was a grant. The money had been deposited in the Land Bank of the Philippines in Manila.

The Federal Government of Germany committed Euro 73.3 million or close to P500 billion to the Philippines by virtue of the Technical and Financial Cooperation Program agreed upon during a bilateral negotiation between representatives of the two countries held in Atlantis Beach Resort in Dauin, about 14 km south of here, last May 5 and 6.

Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Charlie Fabre said the interest and terms of payment and other matters pertaining to the loan will be based on the result of the P50 million feasibility study to be conducted first quarter next year.

Implementation of the project, he added, will start in the second quarter of 2006.

With regard to the grant, Fabre said it will be used for reforestation project in identified project sites whose local government units are willing to give counterpart funding.

The details of the grant, however, will be determined after the feasibility study, he added.

Fabre said the project, which is community based, would focus on the reforestation of watershed and mangrove areas.

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2 cops killed in De Oro rampage

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—TWO RANKING POLICE officials of the Aviation Security Group (ASG) at the Lumbia Airport here were killed after another policeman went into a shooting rampage Friday.

Supt. Honorio Cervantes, city police chief, identified the fatalities as Supt. Loreno Vicente, ASG chief at the Lumbia Airport and his deputy, Maj. Hadji Ali.

The suspect was identified as PO1 Zenon Madrial Jr., also a member of the ASG.

Chief Insp. Antonio Montalba said Madrial Jr. admitted shooting Vicente and Ali.

Montalba said Vicente and Madrial were talking inside the ASG barracks, some 500 meters from the airport, shortly before the shooting.

Then a heated argument ensued between the police official and Madrial.

As the argument was going on, Montalba said Ali came in around 9 a.m.

A few minutes later, Madrial drew a 9 mm pistol and started to shoot.

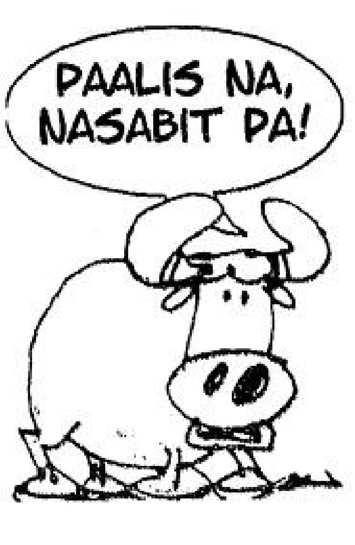
Before Ali died, he was able to fire back at the fleeing Madrial, who was hit in the thigh and the left buttocks, according to Montalba.

Madrial was brought to the Polymedic General Hospital here and was being heavily guarded.

Montalba said Madrial would be charged.

The reasons for the shooting remain unclear. *Grace Cantal Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PMA cadet probed by peers, superiors for cell load theft


PAALIS NA, NASABIT PA!

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—A senior cadet of the Philippine Military Academy is being investigated by his fellow cadets and may be expelled before his graduation next year after he was caught stealing electronic load credits for mobile phones.

The cadet, who belongs to the graduating class of 2006, is a designated custodian for cellular phones, said Lt. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, PMA superintendent, on Thursday.

Although cadets are allowed to own mobile phones, the academy forbids them from using these during class hours or during field exercises inside the PMA.

"But this cadet may have been desperate, so he loaded his phone [with electronic credits by taking them from] the other phones under his custody," Balaoing said.

Balaoing disclosed the cadet's case to the INQUIRER to explain new policies that are aimed at producing better military officers.

He kept the details of the case and the cadet's identity confidential because of an ongoing investigation by a nine-member honor committee composed of members of the Corps of Cadets. The committee, Balaoing said, would determine the cadet's fate.

But the case, while unusual for an organization that makes stealing one of the clearest taboos in its code of conduct, may be the last to be judged by the current honor system practiced in the academy.

PMA is replacing it soon with a new honor system that tries to make sense of why aspiring military officials end up committing these offenses.

Balaoing said he is presenting to Gen. Generoso Senga, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, a new PMA honor code.

PMA is asking Senga to translate this document into a general memorandum this year.

New honor code

PMA cadets and graduates are compelled by training to apply the honor code in all their undertakings, Balaoing said.

Its basic tenet, which is inscribed in the cadet manual called the "gray book," stresses that cadets should "not" lie, cheat or steal; or tolerate those who do."

Balaoing said the new code was commissioned by the AFP in February to address the frequency of scandals implicating PMA graduates.

He said retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, the former AFP comptroller accused of plunder, was on the headlines when the AFP top brass asked him to report on the honor code.

Balaoing, who is credited with designing the AFP modernization plan, said the honor code is the first of seven documents that would outline a new strategic master plan for a long-term cadet leadership development program.

"If something goes wrong in the cadet, who is at fault? Are they? *Tayo sa* academy (It's us in the academy)," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Graft charges vs Jarque dismissed

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE SANDIGANBAYAN first division on Friday has dismissed the last graft charges against retired Brig. Gen. Raymundo Jarque and a junior Army officer for allegedly using government resources in spying on former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto and Negrense businessman Magdaleno Peña for "personal purposes."

The antigraft court said the prosecution failed to prove the guilt of Jarque and Capt. Rustico Banawa on the charges of violating Republic Act No. 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

This was the last of the eight cases filed by Peña against Jarque that drove the Army general to join the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) about 10 years ago. The seventh complaint was dismissed in June.

These cases, including theft and attempted murder, were filed by Desierto before the Sandiganbayan but were later dismissed.

Records at the Sandiganbayan say that Peña and Desierto accused Jarque, Banawa and another junior officer of spying on them from Jan. 1, 1993, to March 31, 1993.

Desierto and Peña claimed that the accused used government manpower, vehicles, time, firearms and others in conducting surveillance operations for "purely personal reasons."

The complaint said the three acted with evident bad faith and grave abuse of their official positions to cause harm and injury to Desierto and Peña.

At that time, Jarque was commanding general of the Armed Forces National Capital Region Defense Command (NCRDC) following his stint as head of the Negros Island Command.

Banawa was NCRDC procurement officer. The other accused, Capt. Mayoralgo de la Cruz, was NCRDC intelligence company commanding officer.

The Sandiganbayan dismissed the charges against De la Cruz earlier in the proceedings after the antigraft court found that the evidence against him was weak.

In its decision, the Sandiganbayan said the prosecution failed to prove that the accused committed the offense charged against Jarque and Banawa.

"The presumption of innocence in favor the accused has not been rebutted by the prosecution hence they are entitled to exoneration," said the decision penned by Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta and concurred by Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro and Efren de la Cruz.

Now that the Sandiganbayan had exonerated him of all the charges filed against him, Jarque said he was mulling the filing of a counter-suit against Peña for all that he put him through.

But he said the dismissal of the last case was "heaven-sent" in the light of the recent "harrowing experience" in the United States.

Jarque and his wife were held and detained by Immigration officials shortly after their arrival at the Dallas Forth Worth International Airport on Sept. 20 because of his affiliation with the NDF, which is in the US list of terrorist groups.

The couple spent the night in separate cells at the Euless City Jail, a facility for common criminals about five miles from the airport, even if he had explained to the Immigration officials that he was no longer an NDF member but merely a peace consultant.

The couple opted to return to the country and took the first flight to Manila the next day rather than remain in detention while waiting for the US officials' decision on whether or not they could stay in the US. They arrived in Manila on Sept. 22.

Melissa had invited her parents to visit her and celebrate her 33rd birthday so they would keep their mind off the recent death of her brother, Capt. Rene Jarque.

ROUNDUP

7 NPA rebs yield

DAVAO CITY—Seven members of the New People's Army (NPA) surrendered to authorities in Agusan del Sur, the military reported Thursday. Capt. Rodel Tayag, acting chief of the military's 5th Civil Relations Group for Southern Mindanao, identified the rebels as Lito Tawidi aka Ka Tandoc, Oko Tawidi aka Ka Oko, Diego Gomez aka Ka Piloc, Jaben Benasal aka Ka Oto, Joel Salamag alias Ka Anton, Malvan Francisco alias Ka Brando and Naldo Oyda alias Ka Boy. Tayag said the rebels "voluntarily gave up" to Lt. Col. Amador Tabuga, commander of the Army's 29th Infantry Battalion based in Loreto, Agusan del Sur, on Monday. The rebels turned over seven guns, he said.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cops seize marijuana

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Police in Kalinga have intercepted at least 60 bricks of marijuana leaves worth P1.5 million from two men on a jeepney in Tabuk town. Policemen manning a checkpoint in Tabuk searched the jeepney and found the marijuana bricks placed inside sacks and covered with clothes and sheaves of rice on Sept. 23.

Villamor Visaya, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Intelligence agent slain

IBA, Zambales—An official of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) in Zambales was shot and killed on Wednesday by a lone gunman in Barangay Amungan here. Zambales police director Senior Supt. Edgardo Ladao identified the victim as First Sgt. Victor Pamplona Jr., 54. He said the suspect shot Pamplona while the latter was resting in his house. Pamplona's relatives were attending a burial when the shooting happened. Police said Pamplona had received death threats before he was attacked.

Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Village exec shot dead

FLORIDABLANCA, Pampanga—A village chief was shot dead on Thursday by two motorcycle-riding men over what farmers believed was tied to a decade-old land dispute here. The murder of Honorio Mariano, chief of Barangay Sta. Monica, came almost five years after his brother Juanito, then chair of the barangay agrarian reform council, was killed in 2001. Mariano was talking with 20 farmers when the gunmen drove by and shot him. He died from seven bullet wounds at the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital in the City of San Fernando. In August this year, Mariano reportedly received a letter warning him about not exerting efforts to reclaim 13 hectares in the 100-ha Faustino-Nanquil property. The 13 ha were the remaining contentious portion of the estate. The rest had been distributed to legitimate tenants and landless farmers but only after some 300 of them forcibly occupied the land, and got all jailed for it in 1996.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Pagayaya food fest

THE BEST dishes of Cagayan Valley will be featured at Sulo Hotel starting today until Oct. 14, according to a news release. *Pagayaya*, an Ibanag word for merrymaking, the title of the food festival, features Ibanag, Ilocano and Itawes dishes such as fried mori (endemic fish of Cagayan), *bebengka nga nanna* (special rice cake made of golden color grain), and *danakdakan* (local dish pork), among others. Regional tourism director Blessida G. Diwa said the Pagayaya promotes the unique culture of Cagayan Valley through food. "The way each dish is prepared shows the heart and soul of the people who are simple and loving," said Diwa. "We cook our food with love and appreciation of the things that surround us."

Alay Lakad raises funds for scholars

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Alay Lakad here has raised P80,000 for 12 scholars of the Alay Lakad Foundation. Foundation treasurer Elsie Umali said they were still waiting for remittances from other towns, which may increase the fund. Teresita Umabao, project committee chair, said they would raise more funds through bingo socials on Nov. 4. A scholar gets a maximum of P10,000 and a minimum of P5,000 per semester for tuition.

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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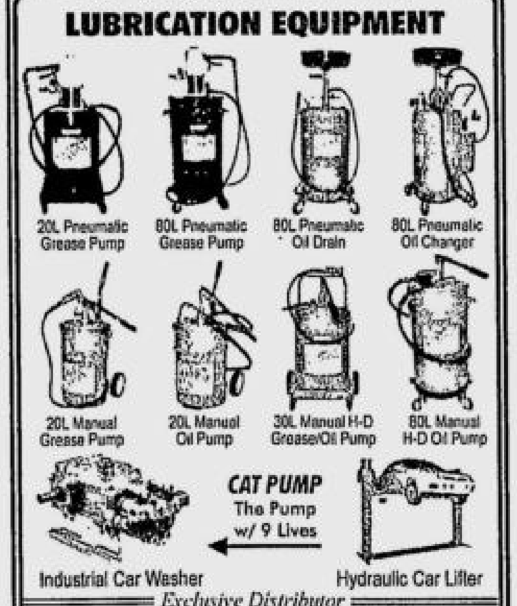

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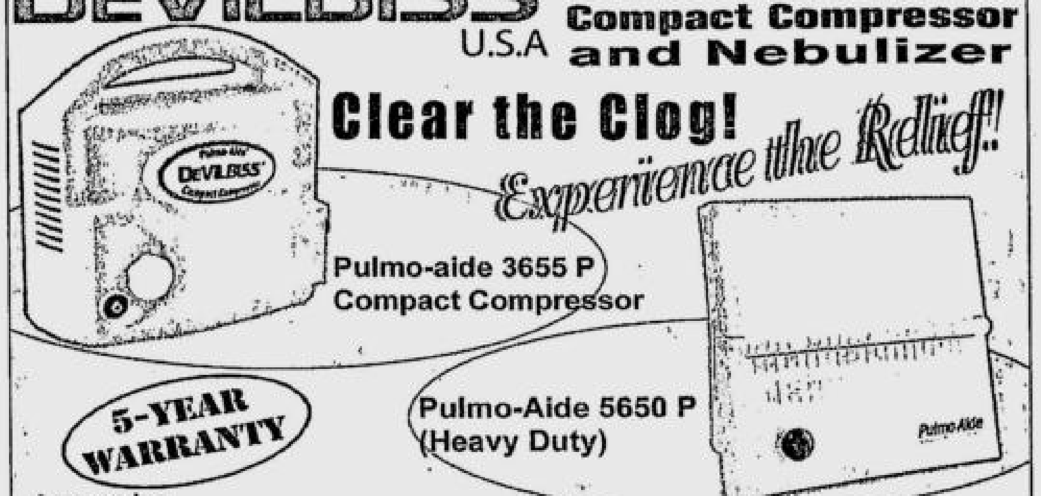

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Big prayer rally honors proimpeach lawmakers

From page A1

Gilbert Remulla, Roilo Golez, Teddy Casiño, Teofisto Guingona III, Ronaldo Zamora, Butch Aquino, Etta Rosales, Satur Ocampo, Erin Tañada, Juan Edgardo Angara, Rolex Suplico, Nerius Acosta, Renato Magtubo, Rodolfo Plaza, Joel Villanueva and Nereus Acosta.

They received the tribute for "upholding the virtue of patriotism and sense of greatness," said Villanueva, a former presidential candidate who is now calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"They stood by the truth and didn't allow themselves to be bought or influenced," the evangelist said. "They sided with the greater interest of the Filipino people."

The proimpeachment members of the House arrived from Manila Hotel wearing apple green shirts. On the front of the shirts were the questions "Ano (What)? Sino (Who)? Kailan (When)?" On the back were the answers "Pagbabago (Change). Ako (I). Ngayon (Now)."

"We pray that GMA accept the truth that she can't govern effectively anymore, that she should give back the leadership she has stolen," Villanueva said.

The Hyatt 10 and the lawmakers were chosen for recognition by the Philippines for Jesus Movement, a coalition of around 3,000 churches in the country.

Not on the group's list was Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, who was the latest to reveal alleged efforts by the camp of Ms Arroyo to rig the presidential election last year.

His testimony at a Senate hearing last week appeared to buttress the calls for Ms Arroyo to step down after administration members of the House quashed all three impeachment complaints against her on Sept. 6.

Villanueva's Bangon Pilipinas movement called for prayers for the embattled general and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan. The two officers face court-martial for refusing to heed Ms Arroyo's controversial order not to appear before the Senate without clearance from the President.

"We call on all patriotic, truly God-fearing Christians to pray for two dear brethren in Christ, who have put their own lives and that of their families at stake for the sake of truth," Dong Cucio, the group's spokesperson, said.

Gag order

Villanueva described Executive Order No. 464, which requires officials to get a clearance from the President before they can testify at congressional hearings, as a "brazen gag order and blatant suppression of constitutional provisions."

"It's unexpected in a civilized society like ours," he told reporters.

Unlike EO 464, the revelation by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago that former President Corazon Aquino and Senate President Franklin Drilon were plotting to oust Ms Arroyo by Oct. 15 didn't draw much attention from Villanueva. He laughed off the allegation, saying "it never crossed my imagination."

Farfetched

"It's very farfetched," he said, adding that Aquino's spirit was "so tamed" when they met recently. "We don't believe Cory will mastermind such a plot."

Later at the JIL anniversary program, Villanueva led a symbolic tearing down of the "walls of evil structures in Philippine society."

He led a prayer seeking to banish political corruption, injustice, immorality, covetousness and greed, pride and arrogance, cowardice and ignorance through lies and deception and poverty.

Villanueva said true change would come through "the awesome spiritual power of God."

Family event

There was an absence of streamers and placards bearing political messages at the prayer rally.

Stalls of popular fast-food chains ringed the field while ambulant vendors milled around.

The prayer rally turned out to be a family event, with young children and teenagers tagging along with their parents.

Some spread mats on the ground and ate their packed snacks during program intervals.

Many JIL members also convinced friends from other religious affiliations to attend the event. "We came here to observe because our JIL friends invited us," Elena Mendoza, a 57-year-old Catholic, said.

SUSAN Roces with Bro. Eddie Villanueva at the prayer rally. JESS YUSON

REPRESENTATIVES Ronaldo Zamora, Roilo Golez (from left) and other proimpeachment lawmakers receive thunderous applause at the Rizal Park rally. JESS YUSON

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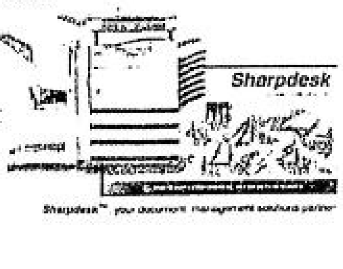

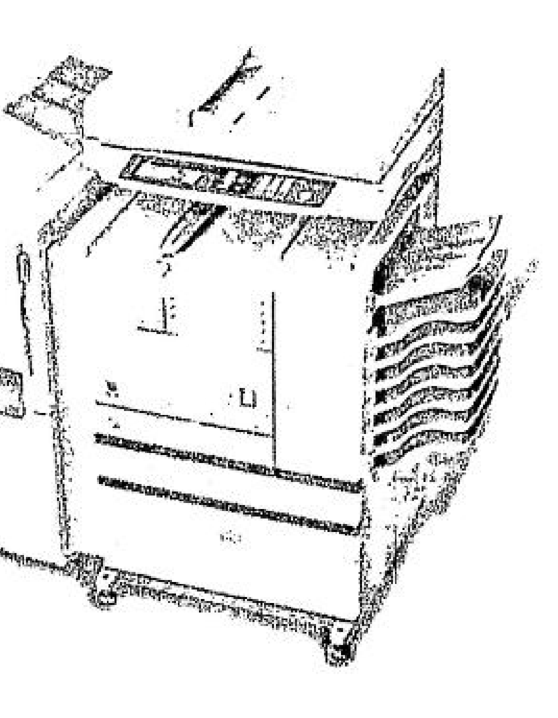

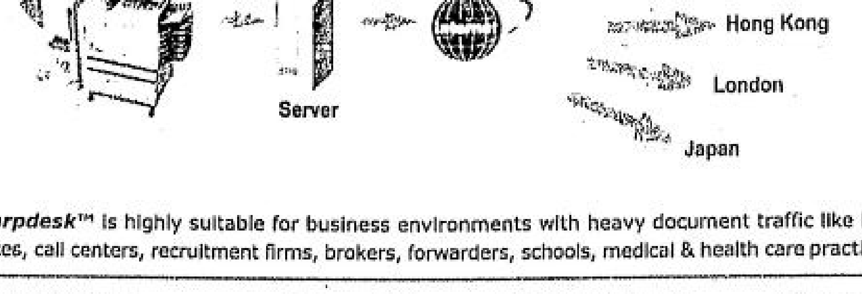

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Bishops see US hand . . .

From page A1

"Is our problem really within us or is it being promoted by powerful hands from outside the Philippines? Let's think about it," the Lipa archbishop said.

"Many bishops, including myself, are worried that this crisis, this conflict among our leaders, is connected with (forces) from the outside."

Arguelles, one of the more influential members of the 119-strong Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said possible US involvement in Ms Arroyo's political problems was raised in private conversations he had before the CBCP issued a statement on the crisis on July 10.

The CBCP's declaration it was staying away from calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation but telling her she should not ignore them altogether defused the tense atmosphere prevailing then. It was triggered by the release in June of the "Hello Garci" wiretap which the opposition said was evidence Ms Arroyo had stolen last year's election. Ms Arroyo has denied the charge.

Arguelles said there could have been a connection between the political scandal and provocative statements coming from former US Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli, who had predicted that Mindanao would be the next Afghanistan.

Last month, the INQUIRER reported that Mussomeli had prepared an analysis of the Philippine political situation, telling Washington about possible coup attempts and warning that Vice President Noli de Castro was unfit to assume the presidency in case Ms Arroyo was ousted.

Mussomeli was severely criticized in Manila for his reports to Washington that were leaked to the media in Manila.

US move a reprisal?

Arguelles said Washington might have been fomenting the political scandal as a way of getting back at the Arroyo administration for withdrawing a small Philippine humanitarian contingent from Iraq.

The Philippine withdrawal of its token force in Iraq was done to secure the release of driver Angelo de la Cruz from his Iraqi kidnappers who had threatened to behead him.

Arguelles also said Washington was probably "not happy" with the country's active relationship with China in business and defense activities.

"They are really afraid of that," he said.

The arrest of dismissed Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, a known ally of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, for espionage also didn't escape the bishop's attention.

Noting that Aquino was linked to some local leaders, Arguelles said the high-profile incident might also be connected with the political crisis. He did not elaborate.

One time, he said, the President had told him that "anti-GMA personalities in embassies" had been sacked. He said he was baffled by this report.

US will do anything

"The US will use the leftists, the rightists, (and) everything in order to achieve everything that they want to achieve in our country," he quoted a CBCP official as telling him. "It's difficult to say that but that is the reality."

Arguelles said he once aired his concern about the reported US involvement in the Philippine crisis when he ran into a group of Filipino-Americans during a visit to the United States at the height of the wiretapping controversy.

Asked if Filipinos were again poised to bring down a president, he replied to laughter from the group: "Why don't you ask your state department?"

Arguelles urged Filipinos to heed the bishops' call for prayer, unity and dialogue in the midst of the continuing political turmoil.

"We have to promote what is good for the Philippines, not what will destroy us," he said. "Time will come when we will disintegrate because we fight one another. But it might turn out that we were pitted against one another by foreigners."

OFW's death ruled suicide

By Nikko Dizon

THE FILIPINO DOMESTIC HELPER FOUND dead with a slash wound in her neck in the home of her Spanish employer had killed herself.

This was the finding of the autopsy conducted on the remains of Ivy Collantes Bautista by the authorities in Santander, Spain, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

In light of the report, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo instructed Philippine Ambassador to Madrid Joseph Bernardo to "make representations with the appropriate authorities in Santander for another autopsy on Ivy," with a Filipino forensic pathologist observing, according to a DFA statement.

Bernardo had forwarded to Romulo the findings of the Santander police, "which determined suicide as the cause of death," the statement said.

"We take very cautious note of this finding after the legal medical autopsy done on Ivy," Romulo said.

"For this reason, I have instructed the embassy to seek another autopsy and the OUMWA (Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs) to arrange for the immediate travel to Santander of the husband and uncle of Ivy and—should the Spanish authorities grant our request for a second autopsy—a Philippine forensic pathologist," Romulo said.

Bautista, 27, was found dead on Sept. 27 in her room in the home of her wealthy employer in the coastal town of Santander in northern Spain. Her throat had been slashed.

Initial reports said she was the object of jealousy of the mistress of the house.

Migrant Workers Affairs Undersecretary Jose Brillantes is arranging for the trip to Santander of Bautista's husband Crisanto and uncle Ireneo Maranan.

Brillantes met last weekend with Bautista's family, including her 7-year-old son Kent.

Brillantes said the DFA would be making representations with the Spanish Embassy in Manila to grant visas to Crisanto, Ireneo and a DFA-OUMWA official for this "humanitarian" visit to Spain.

Gov't comes to aid of OFWs

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment will send social workers to six major destinations of overseas Filipino workers to provide distressed OFWs with counseling services and other forms of assistance.

DOLE International Labor Affairs Services director Merliza Makinano said seven social workers from the Department of Social Welfare and Development will leave next month and stay in their assigned countries for a year.

Leaving next month are Remy Beltran for Hong Kong, Consejo Usman for Riyadh, Viviene Pinlac for Abu Dhabi, Elena Labrador for Dubai, Josefina Reyes for Lebanon and Milagros Orticio and Delia Bernal for Kuwait.

The seven social workers will monitor the physical and emotional wellbeing of OFWs, provide counseling and help them deal with stress. They will also facilitate social interaction among the workers and teach them livelihood skills that they could use when they return to the Philippines.

The social workers will also visit work sites, hospitals and jails subject to the approval of the host countries and in coordination with Philippine embassy officials.

In a report to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Makinano said the social workers had been briefed by ILAS on the political situation, laws, customs and traditions, and the condition of the OFWs in the host countries.

The top three destinations for OFWs during the first semester of 2005 were the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates, which includes Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Kuwait and Lebanon ranked sixth and eleventh, respectively, in the OFW destinations during the same period.

Last year, the government deployed eight social workers to Hong Kong, Taichung, Riyadh, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Kuwait.

This year, DOLE will be sending two social workers to Kuwait because of the substantial number of distressed OFWs that needed assistance there in 2004. *Leila B. Salaverria*

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Malaysian linked to Bali bombings trained in RP

KUALA LUMPUR—ONE OF THE two Malaysians suspected of masterminding the latest Bali blasts is a bomb making expert trained in Afghanistan and the Philippines who could have easily made explosive vests like the ones allegedly used in the attacks, a Malaysian security official said Sunday.

He said Malaysian authorities working with their Indonesian counterparts fear that Saturday night's attacks on three restaurants in Bali could be the start of a bombing campaign by the al-Qaida-linked Southeast Asian terror network Jemaah Islamiyah.

The blasts, which killed at least 26 people and injured scores more, bore a striking resemblance to the bombing three years ago of nightclubs in Bali that killed 202 people.

"The fact that the terrorists struck in Bali again is to deliver a strong message: They are telling us that 'you cannot stop us, we can strike anywhere and anytime,'" said the official, who is closely involved in regional terror investigations.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the investigation.

Indonesian officials have named Malaysian fugitives Azahari bin Husin and Noordin Mohamed Top as the likely masterminds of Saturday's blasts.

The two men fled Malaysia to escape a crackdown by authorities in several Southeast Asia countries in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States. Scores of Jemaah Islamiyah suspects were detained.

The two fugitive Malaysians went to Indonesia, where they allegedly orchestrated the Oct. 12, 2002, nightclub attacks.

Azahari has wide expertise in bomb making, including remote-controlled explosives, which he learned in southern Philippines and Afghanistan in 1999 and 2000, the security official said.

He "would have little problem in improvising their skills to come up with explosive vests," said the official.

Noordin is said to be Azahari's understudy and a recruiter of foot soldiers.

Authorities in Malaysia have been keeping a close eye on the relatives and friends of the two suspects, but "their trail went cold" several months ago, the official said.

Azahari, a British-trained engineer, and Noordin are accused of orchestrating two other bombings in the Indonesian capital in 2003 and 2004.

Although both the Bali incidents were suicide attacks, a crucial difference is that last time the bombs were carried in a car and a backpack. This time, the three suicide bombers were wearing vests packed with explosives, metal shrapnel and ball bearings, officials said.

Malaysia's Defense Minister Najib Razak insisted that "there are no terrorist cells actively operating in Malaysia as far as the government is concerned."

But "prompt action must be taken any place where terrorists are detected," he told reporters. *AP*

26 dead in 3 suicide bombings in Bali

From page A1

day's attacks. The two are also accused of orchestrating the 2002 nightclub bombings that killed mostly foreigners and two other attacks in the Indonesian capital in 2003 and 2004. The latter attacks also involved suicide bombers.

"The modus operandi of Saturday's attacks is the same as the earlier ones," said Mbai, who identified the two suspected masterminds as Azahari bin Husin and Noordin Mohamed Top.

He said the two suspected terrorists were not believed to be among the three suicide attackers, although the assailants have not yet been identified. Their remains were found at the scenes.

"I have seen them. All that is left is their head and feet," Mbai told The Associated Press. "By the evidence, we can conclude the bombers were carrying the explosives around their waists."

It was not immediately clear whether the three suicide bombers were included in the death toll which, according to Sanglah Hospital spokesperson Putu Putra Wisada, climbed to 26 on Sunday. He did not elaborate.

Two Australians, two Americans and a Japanese man were among those killed, along with at least 12 Indonesians. Officials were trying to identify the nationalities of the other corpses in the morgue, a hospital statement said.

The 101 wounded included 49 Indonesians, 17 Australians, six Americans, six Koreans, four Japanese, officials said.

INDONESIAN police search for clues at the wreckage of a noodle restaurant in Kuta, Bali. REUTERS

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who immediately blamed terrorists for the attack, was on Bali to look at the devastation firsthand and vowed to hunt down the perpetrators and "bring them to justice."

Earlier he had warned that more attacks were possible in the world's most populous Muslim nation, saying he had received information last month "that terrorists were planning an action in Jakarta and that explosives were ready."

Long lines formed at checkout counters at Bali's international airport with a steady stream of taxis dropping off passengers.

"We were up all night trying to change our ticket," said Veli-Matti Enqvist, 51, who had been scheduled to leave Bali with his wife on Wednesday. They were walking on the beach when they heard the Jimbaran blasts. "We finally found something ... we're going."

Dozens of people, most of them Indonesian, waited in tears outside the morgue in Sanglah Hospital, near the island's capital city, Denpasar, for news of friends and relatives missing since the attacks. Several coffins were carried out, one of them for a child.

The bombers struck at about 8 p.m. as thousands of diners flocked to restaurants in tourist areas on the bustling, mostly Hindu island, which was just starting to recover from the 2002 blasts.

The head waiter at the Menega Café said the bomb went off at his beachside restaurant between the tables of two large dinner parties, who were sitting in the sand. Most of the 120 diners at the restaurant were Indonesians, he said.

'Allah, Allah, help'

"Everyone started screaming "Allah, Allah, help!" said Wayan Subagia, 23, who escaped with injuries to his leg. "One woman rushed to pick up her child but the little girl was already dead."

Minutes later he heard another blast at the Nyoman seafood restaurant, about 50 meters away.

Baradita Katoppo, an Indonesian tourist from Jakarta, was dining with colleagues there said he heard a loud blast followed by flying debris, panic and blood.

At almost the same time about 5 km away in Kuta, a bomb exploded at the three-story Raja restaurant in a bustling outdoor shopping center. Smoke poured from the badly damaged building. The bomb apparently went off on the restaurant's second floor.

Before the 2002 bombings, Bali enjoyed a reputation for peace and tranquility. The nightclub blasts killed people from 22 countries, including 88 Australians and seven Americans.

Courts on Bali island have convicted dozens of militants for the blasts, and three suspects were sentenced to death.

Since the 2002 attacks, Jemaah Islamiyah has been tied to deadly bombings outside the Australian Embassy last year and at the J.W. Marriott hotel in 2003. *AP*

Swift passage of antiterrorism bill pushed

From page A1

police and the military to go on heightened alert.

Initial reports indicated there was no Filipino casualty in the Bali blasts, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said, quoting a report from Philippine Ambassador to Jakarta Shulan Primavera.

Pedro Chan, executive director at the Office of the Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, said in a phone interview that few Filipinos vacationed or worked in Bali.

"In Bali, they usually employ Indonesians and there are very few Filipino tourists who go there because it's actually similar to many of our resorts here," Chan said.

Bali attacks expected

For months intelligence officials had received information about a .terrorist attack like the latest Bali bombing—but the plot's details were not uncovered in time to thwart it, Philippine security officials said yesterday.

Ric Blancaflor, executive director of a Philippine antiterrorism task force, said Southeast Asia's intelligence community was aware that the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah group was orchestrating a major strike, possibly in the Philippines or Indonesia.

"The fact that there's going to be an attack was known to the intelligence community," Blancaflor said. "The problem always is how to get the exact details, like where."

A police intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of his work, said Indonesia was warned by Western security officials of a possible attack before Saturday's deadly bombings. He didn't elaborate.

Threat undiminished

The official also said Jemaah Islamiyah had been trying to solicit funds from the Middle East to finance a major strike in the Philippines.

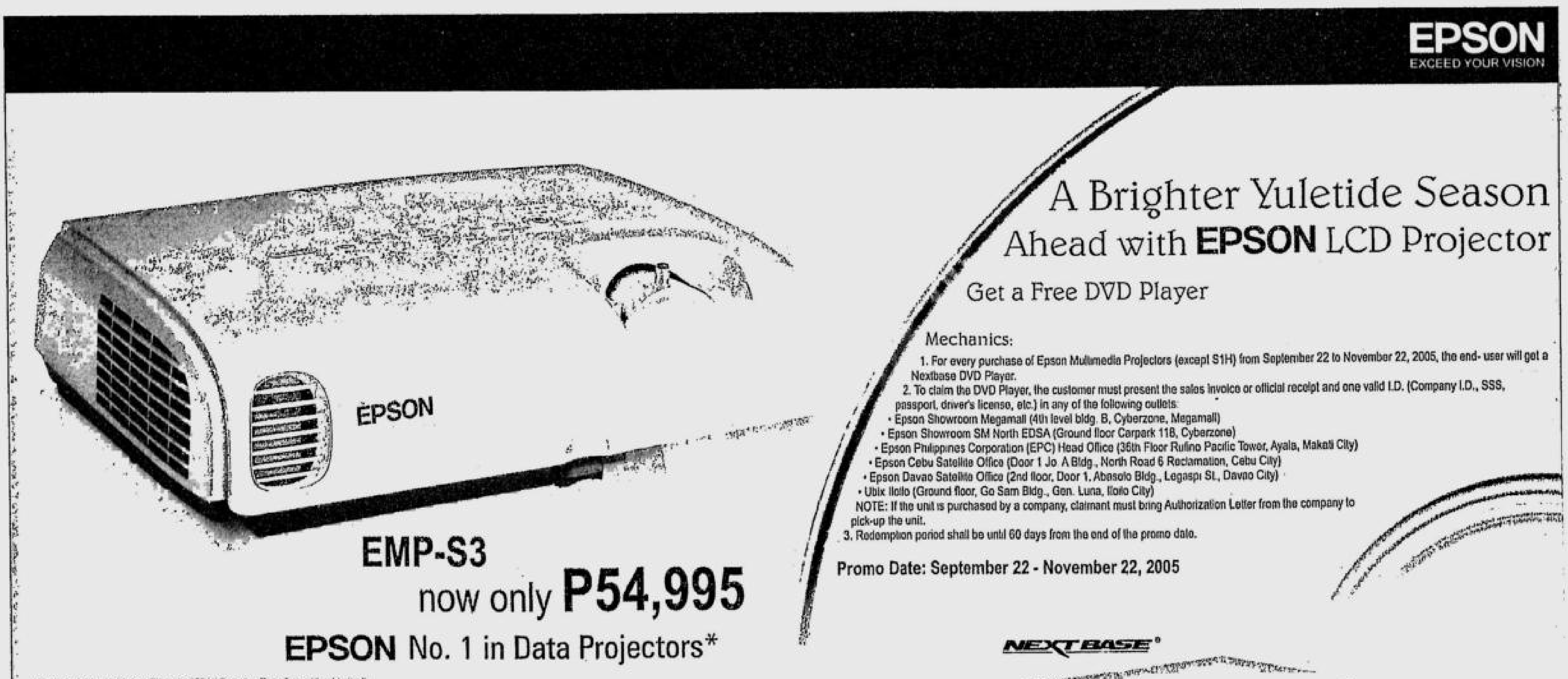
"The threat has not diminished," said Blancaflor.

Philippine security officials warned last month that at least two Jemaah Islamiyah would-be suicide bombers may have already slipped into the country to carry out an attack with the help of the Abu Sayyaf group.

The Philippines has been regarded as a terrorist breeding ground. Western nations have expressed concern over the presence of Jemaah Islamiyah training camps in Mindanao, fearing they could produce militants who could strike anywhere.

Officials, however, said that troops had overrun those camps and were pursuing Indonesian militants fleeing from a months-long offensive in Mindanao with small groups of Abu Sayyaf guerrillas.

The Abu Sayyaf, which is on a US list of terrorist groups, has been blamed for high-profile kidnappings and deadly assaults, including a bombing that set a ferry ablaze last year, killing 116 people in the country's worst terrorist attack. *With reports from Nikko Dizon, AP*



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‘Hello Garci,’ ‘Ma’am’ game to hit the Web

By DJ Yap

A GROUP SEEKING THE OUSTER of President Macapagal-Arroyo will hit the World Wide Web soon with a fun way of driving home their message: They will be coming up with a cyber game called “Hello Garci.”

In this yet-to-be released Internet game, the player’s goal is to collect one million points (“representing one million votes”) by shooting at the presidential seal.

To get points, players must hit the bull’s eye using the computer mouse as trigger.

They will try to get more points than a default game character named “Ma’am.”

But there’s a catch: every time Ma’am starts losing, she will call another character named “Garci.”

Instantly, she will win one million points (or votes).

Unfair?

No. Not really.

The game will be rigged from the very beginning—and that will be the point, said Raymond Palatino, spokesperson of Youth Demanding Arroyo’s Removal (Youth Dare).

Youth Dare is embarking on the anti-Arroyo project to attract Internet denizens, Palatino said.

Protest gimmicks like mobile ring tones, MTVs, etc. may have failed to drive Ms Arroyo out of Malacañang, but Youth Dare is hoping the new campaign will reinvigorate the movement against the President, who is being accused of election fraud.

The computer game will be developed over the semestral break in partnership with web-based consumer group TXTPower, which popularized “Hello Garci” ring tones, Palatino said.

He said they hope to finish the game software, using simple Flash technology, by the end of the month, after which Internet users can download the game.

The target market is “PC addicts” or frequent Internet and computer users who have no time to join protest rallies because of school or work, he added.

Palatino admitted that the anti-Arroyo groups had been experiencing difficulty in “sustaining” the intensity of protests, especially after the House of Representatives junked the impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo.

“We hope the game can be a new venue of dissent, especially among the youth,” Palatino said.

Aside from the target shooting storyline, other proposed ideas include “The Search for Garci,” he said.

In this game, players will try to click on an image of the missing former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano as it pops out of a world map to “catch” where he might be, Palatino said.

Garcillano is widely suspected to be the voice in the “Hello Garci” tapes purportedly talking to Ms Arroyo about rigging the 2004 polls. He has since disappeared from public view.

The computer game will form a three-part series, Palatino said.

The first two will be rigged, as the players are continually foiled from winning by Ma’am’s or Garci’s exploits, he said.

No storyline has been developed for the final version, Palatino said.

One thing is sure, though, he said: “In the last game, Ma’am and Garci will lose.”

Another cop tagged in robberies

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE LIST IS GETTING longer.

The four Eastern Police District policemen alleged to be behind the series of robberies and kidnappings in Metro Manila and Rizal have identified another lawman who they claimed was also involved in criminal activities.

PO1 Candido Vallejo, PO1 Roel Palana and PO1 Roger Villarente have been arrested for a foiled robbery in Cainta, Rizal, where a year-old girl was killed.

Three days ago, the three policemen now detained at the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response, reportedly implicated another policeman as part of their group, police officials said.

Police identified the policeman as PO2 Allan Verana of the complaint desk of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region.

CIDG-NCR chief Senior Supt. Asher Dolina said he turned over Verana to the custody of Pacer on Friday.

Verana is being linked to the kidnapping of Michael Chan, 44, who was found dead in Antipolo City on Sept. 17, two days after he was kidnapped.

Verana, who voluntarily showed up after his name cropped up in the investigation, is reportedly denying the accusation.

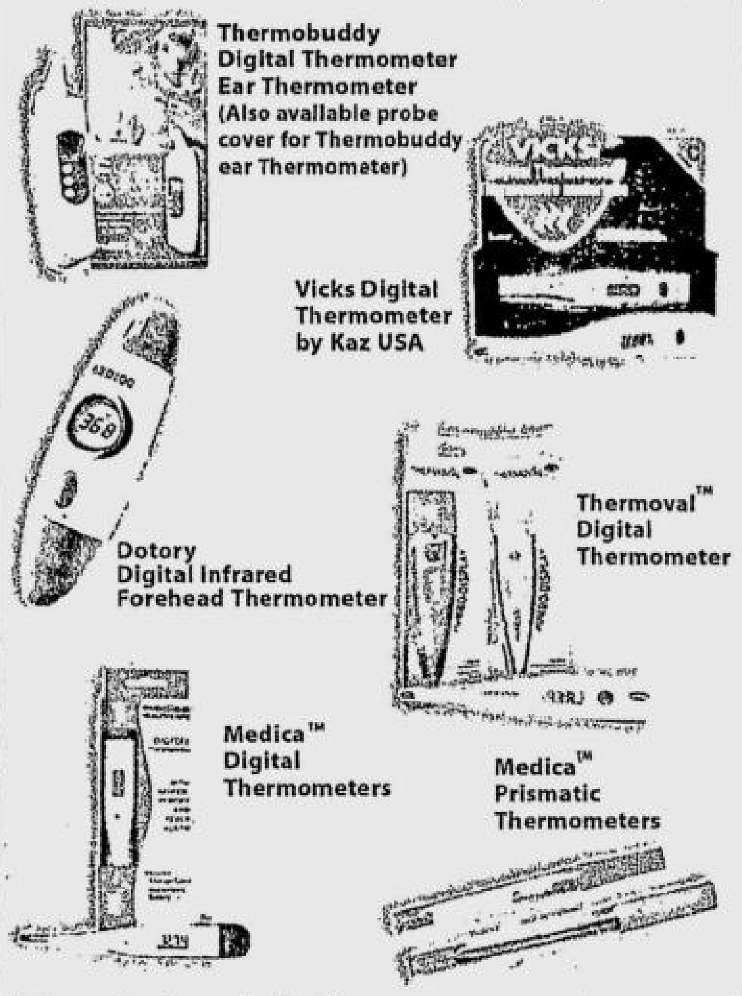
‘Death penalty bad for OFWs’

THE PHILIPPINES cannot expect cooperation from other countries in its efforts to help Filipinos facing possible death sentences abroad when it is still imposing the death penalty on its own shores, according to a partylist representative.

“It is difficult for us to bargain for the lives of our OFWs (accused of crimes). We don’t have enough leverage as long as we have the death penalty,” Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales said.

Some countries have no intention of having extradition treaties with the Philippines, or allowing suspected Filipinos to come home, unless the government repeals Republic Act 7659, or the Death Penalty Law, she said.

Even Singapore, where Filipino maid Guen Aguilar is facing death by hanging if convicted for the murder of compatriot Jane Lapuebla, could not be pressured to slacken its laws (for Filipinos), Rosales said. *DJ Yap*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Parade awaits Miss Int'l in Makati

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AS A FITTING WELCOME TO A beauty queen, confetti will rain down Makati City's skyscrapers today to celebrate the homecoming of newly crowned Ms International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman.

Quigaman, who will be arriving today, will be feted a parade down the streets of the business district, City Hall announced before the weekend.

"Makati, a world-class city, is honored to welcome a world-class Filipina," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay in a statement.

A 22-year-old fashion model, Quigaman was the fourth Filipino to grab the crown, which she won 26 years after actress Melanie Marquez won the pageant.

Quigaman, whose win in the beauty tilt in Japan last week was a welcome break to the nation mired in political turmoil, would tour major arteries of the business district starting 3 p.m.

It would be the first time in recent history that traffic in the business district would be disrupted by an event other than demonstrations demanding the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Quigaman will be welcomed with a ticker tape parade that will start at the Makati Central Fire Station at the corner of Gil Puyat and Ayala Avenues. It will go down Ayala Avenue up to Hotel Drive.

From there, the parade will U-turn back to the other lane of Ayala Avenue, take a right at Makati Avenue, then travel to the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, where organizers will host a short program in Quigaman's honor.

Motorists are advised to expect heavy traffic around the Makati business district this afternoon. All roads in the district, including Makati and Ayala Avenues, will remain open.

City Hall said traffic enforcers and policemen will be on hand to manage traffic.

The entire country is awaiting Quigaman's arrival.

Quigaman is scheduled to arrive today at 12:55 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport via Philippine Airlines flight PR 431 from Tokyo.

She will be welcomed by dignitaries led by Stella Marquez de Araneta, chair of Bb. Pilipinas Charities.

"This has become a national event. It's gone beyond the (Bb. Pilipinas) charity," Antonette Gonzales of Araneta Center said in a phone interview.

Gonzales said that from the airport, Quigaman would proceed to the motorcade around Ayala in Makati City and would proceed to Araneta Center in Quezon City.

A press conference will be held at the Gateway mall in Araneta Center at 6 p.m. to be followed by a private cocktail with the Bb. Pilipinas Committee, Gonzales added.

Quigaman is also set to meet the President at the Malacañang music room. *With Nikko Dizon and Gil Cabacungan*

Tulad ng mga OFWs, pinatunayan niyang iba ang galing ng mga Pilipino kahit saan man sa mundo.
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Councilor Aiko faces charges for bar brawl

By Tarra V. Quismundo

NIGHTLIFE IN A POSH MAKATI CITY BAR was about to wind up at dawn yesterday when a brawl broke out between bar guests that included actress-politician Aiko Melendez, the Makati Police District (MPD) said yesterday.

Senior Insp. Mcvernon Manera of the MPD Police Community Precinct 6 said the brawl occurred at the open-air dining area of Nuvo Bar and Restaurant in Greenbelt 2 at about 3 a.m.

Businessman Ronald Serrano, 33, told police that Melendez's security aide PO3 Jun Alvarez broke his nose during the scuffle. Alvarez retorted that Serrano hit him.

At the MPD headquarters yesterday afternoon, two of Serrano's companions, Happy Rivera, 30, and Alana Montelibano, 29, filed physical injury charges against Melendez, a Quezon City councilor.

Rivera, in an interview, said Melendez initiated the brawl when the actress-politician elbowed her in the right arm while passing by their table.

"I never met her personally. [But] she was the ex-girlfriend of my husband," said Rivera, referring to her husband of six years, Wowie Rivera.

Rivera said she and Wowie started dating shortly after he and Melendez broke up eight years ago.

Meanwhile, Montelibano said Melendez kicked her right thigh.

"She started yelling at us, and then her company of maybe seven men came to our table and started yelling at us. Naturally, our guy-friends came to our rescue… That's when her bodyguard punched our friend," said Rivera.

But Joseph Capistrano, counsel to Melendez and Alvarez, said the brawl ensued after someone from Rivera's group touched her chest. He said Alvarez denied punching anybody.

The lawyer reserved further comment, pending the police officer's inquest. He likewise begged off answering whether Capistrano was on duty at the time of the incident.

Capistrano said Melendez was contemplating filing charges for harassment against Rivera and her companions.

Mandaluyong pulls the plug on cyber games

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT OF MANDALUYONG City will no longer allow employees to play computer games on their workstations in City Hall.

They are also prohibited from using equipment and appliances "not vital to the operation of their respective department."

They can use air-conditioners from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. only.

Also, they can no longer use government vehicles outside regular working hours and outside regular routes.

These guidelines, enumerated in a statement from the City Public Information Office are aimed at reducing energy consumption at the City Hall by 20 percent.

If followed, this would mean P300,000 savings for the government every month.

The question is: will these guidelines be strictly followed?

Mayor Neptali Gonzales II is counting on the "support" of his fellow employees, the statement said.

The austerity measures are being implemented to support an earlier call by the national government for energy conservation amid soaring oil prices.

Nearby Pasig City has implemented a harsher energy conservation program, allowing the use of air-conditioners in the City Hall for only three hours every day.

Vietnam feels SEA Games crown a cinch for RP

55 days to go
Basta Pinoy. Posible.
Globe

VIETNAM SEES THE PHILIPPINES AS ripe enough to win a first ever Southeast Asian Games overall title.

Noting the preparations being undertaken by Filipino athletes, not to mention the hometown advantage they will enjoy, Vietnamese Olympic Committee vice president Nguyen Hong Minh predicts a top finish for the Philippines in the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 biennial meet.

"The Philippines will win the overall title. You will be No. 1," said Minh before flying to Bacolod City last Saturday.

Minh is part of the group of SEAG Chef de Missions who arrived here over the weekend for a four-day visit and inspections of all venues to be used for the 41 sports in the competitions.

"I know for sure how your officials are preparing your athletes," said Minh. "You have a good training program and a big crowd is expected to cheer for your team. It's going to be a good fight for the overall title among Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines. But as host country, I'm putting my bet on the Filipinos."

The top Vietnamese sports official knows what he speaks of. Vietnam also ran away with its first SEAG overall title two years ago when it hosted the meet.

So far, Minh is the third foreign official to predict a Filipino victory in the SEAG after Chaiyapak Siriwat, president of the National Sports Committee of Thailand, and Major Gen. Charouck Arirachakaran, Thailand's National Olympic Committee vice president and secretary general.

The two Thai officials arrived in the country one after the other to assess the country's preparations for the Games.

Minh stressed, however, that Vietnam is keen on defending the overall title.

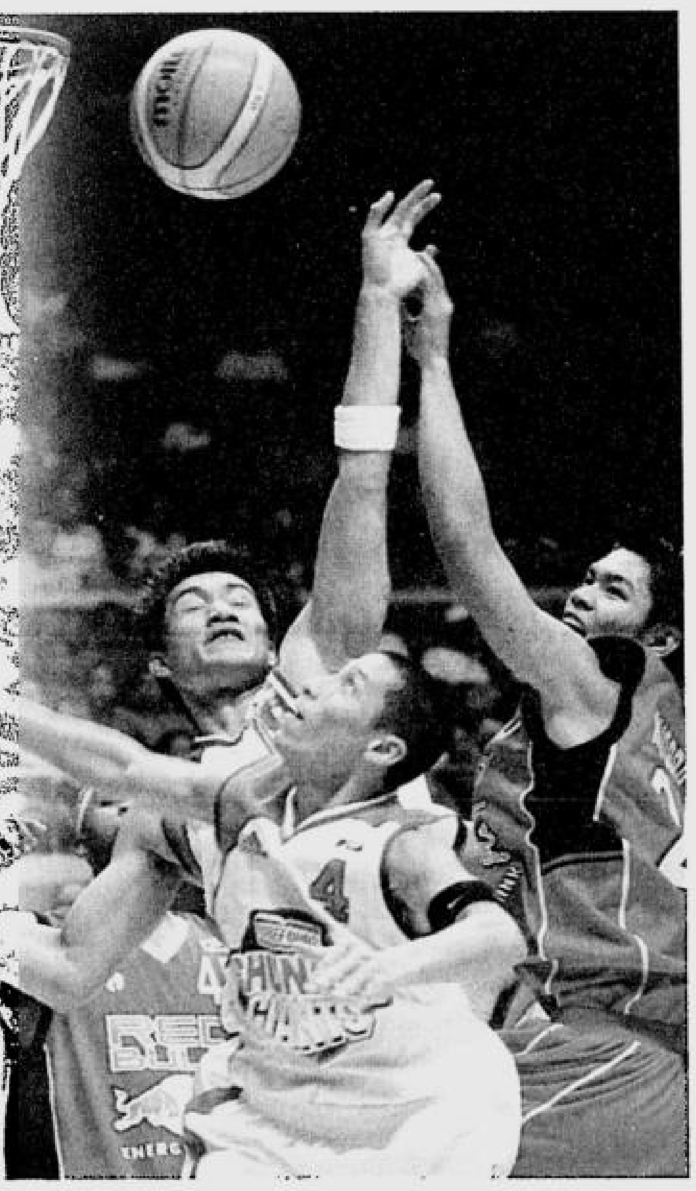
"All of our medal winners during the 2003 Games are coming," said Minh. "Like the other countries, we send our athletes abroad, particularly to China to train for the SEAG. But the atmosphere will definitely work to your advantage."

Charouck, meanwhile, based his prediction on the current trend of the Games since 2001 when all countries that hosted the Games emerged as the overall winner.

PBA OPENER

Purefoods Chunkee off to explosive start

By June Navarro



PUREFOODS' Paul Artadi (foreground) and James Yap dispute the rebound with Red Bull's Leo Najorda. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

PUREFOODS Chunkee survived a late Red Bull charge in the dying minutes and opened its season with an 84-77 victory last night in the San Mig Coffee PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Giants led by as many as 22 points but were held to without a field goal in the final two minutes by the Barako.

Purefoods, however, managed to survive on free throws down the stretch.

"This was a very important win for us because we really wanted to start out strong in this conference," said Purefoods Chunkee coach Ryan Gregorio.

Marquin Chandler proved to be an efficient walking advertisement for the Giants before a roaring crowd of roughly 15,000 as he finished with 28 points and 26 boards.

James Yap, Kerby Raymundo and rookie Jondan Salvador also played key roles, backstopping Chandler with timely baskets that kept the Barako on a leash throughout.

Yap fired 23 points, including four free throws in the final 32 seconds while Raymundo added 15. Salvador debuted with eight points.

After taking a 40-22 lead, the Giants padded their advantage to 61-39 behind Chandler, Raymundo and Yap.

But Red Bull's Quemont Greer sparked a rally that nearly wiped out the 22-point deficit with Nelson Asaytono even moving the Barako within three, 80-77, after a big triple in the dying seconds.

"We didn't give up on defense," Yap said.

Cyrus Baguio, Lordy Tugade and Junthy Valenzuela also slowed their team's comeback by missing several point-blank shots and committing a couple of turnovers.

Red Bull rookies Leo Najorda, Larry Fonacier and Paolo Bugia saw little action.

Earlier, PBA chair Ely Capacio praised the crowd attendance of 15,023 and expressed hopes of robust turnouts even on ordinary days during the colorful opening ceremony of the league's 31st season.

"It's good to have the crowds here," said Capacio after looking at the multitude that almost filled the 20,000-seat capacity of the Big Dome.

"But how to maintain their enthusiasm is the big question as of the moment," he added.

Capacio, however, pointed out that the PBA has already started breathing life to its preseason blueprint to lure back the fans.

"It's an integrated approach to bring back the crowd," he explained.

The scores:

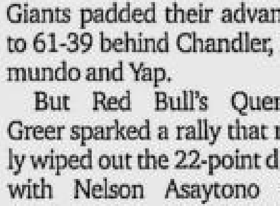
PUREFOODS 84—Chandler 28, J. Yap 23, Raymundo 15, Salvador 8, Yee 6, Artadi 4, Pingris 0, Billones 0, R. Yap 0.

RED BULL 77—Greer 37, Tugade 16, Asaytono 6, Baguio 4, Cruz 3, Villanueva 3, Bugia 2, Robinson 2, Valenzuela 2, Torion 2, Najorda 0, Fonacier 0.

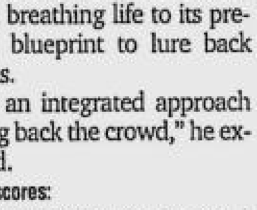
Quarters: 24-19, 40-27, 67-48, 84-77

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Barangay Ginebra
7:25 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Alaska

WHAT'S INSIDE



- Narvaez breaks through in ITF tilt /A26
- J-Ro trails Korean rookie by 3 shots /A28



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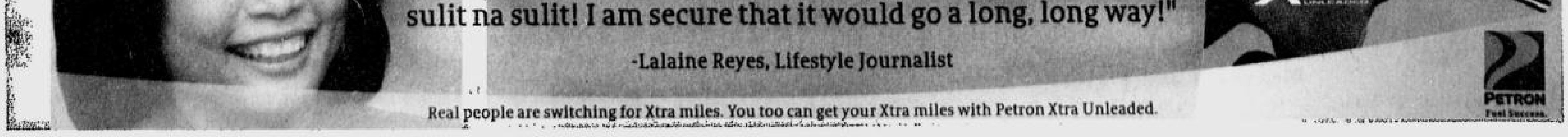
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Villamin, Manuel star as Spring five tops Pagadian

CEBU CITY—SPRING COOKING OIL GOT off to a rousing start in the 2005 Mayor Tomas Osmeña National Invitational Cup basketball tournament Saturday by whipping Pagadian City, 94-87, at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Dondon Villamin and Rodel Manuel led the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Johnny de Jesus to their first win in the four-team tourney by scoring 17 points apiece.

Now handled by Efren "Yong" Garcia, Spring jumped to a 20-16 first-quarter lead and never looked back. The Cooking Oil Masters led by 16 going into the payoff period, 73-57.

In the other game, M. Lhuillier walloped Montaña of Davao, 86-74.

Spring Cooking Oil, which lost to Cavite in the semifinals of the ongoing National Basketball Conference, and M. Lhuillier are playing at presstime.

The top two teams at the end of the round-robin elimination will clash in a best-of-three series for the title starting tomorrow.

Mar Reyes and Mel Latoreno ably backed Villamin and Manuel with 13 and 10 points, respectively.

Spring has added veteran Francis Sanz and former PBA player Chris Cantonjos to its roster.

The scores:

SPRING 94—Villamin 17, Manuel 17, Reyes 13, Latoreno 10, F. Sanz 9, Corbin 8, Cantonjos 5, Kalaw 4, R. Sanz 3, Javier 3, Caceres 3, Yambao 2

PAGADIAN 87—Dayota 26, Isidro 16, Kelo 13, Valconcha 8, Bognot 5, Sinco 5, Potot 4, Guiyab 4, Cortez 3, Polo 3

Quarters: 20-16, 43-33, 73-57, 94-87.

WNCAA

Lyceum a victory away from big sweep

DEFENDING CHAMPION LYCEUM DRUBBED Rizal Technological University, 65-50, yesterday to move within a win of sweeping the 36th WNCAA senior basketball eliminations and grabbing the twice-to-beat edge in the Group A championship at the EAC gymnasium in Manila.

The Lady Pirates, with nine straight wins, still must beat College of St. Benilde on Oct. 8 to gain the twice-to-beat edge against newcomer AMA Computer University in the finals scheduled the following day.

Otherwise, it will be a best-of-three series.

St. Benilde took the inside track in the winner-take-all battle for third place after crushing Centro Escolar University, 52-38.

CEU and RTU closed out the season with identical 4-6 cards.

The WNCAA's 36th season is being supported by Adidas, Penshoppe, Mikasa, Molten, Cherifer vitamin, Rio 106.7 and ABC 5.

In Group B, Miriam College, St. Scholastica's College and La Consolacion College are still fighting it out for the right to meet San Beda College Alabang.

St. Scholastica (7-3) needs to beat La Consolacion (6-4) in a game that was going on at presstime, and Miriam (7-4) on Oct. 8 to reach the best-of-three finals.

La Consolacion downed Miriam on Saturday, 50-42.

Host Emilio Aguinaldo College Manila (6-5) also beat University of Asia & the Pacific (1-10), 64-54, over the weekend to keep its slim chance of entering the battle for third place.

Narvaez breaks through in ITF Junior 2nd leg

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IN THE END, THE GUY WITH THE STRONGER **legs literally stepped right up to claim the crown.**

Miguel Lorenzo Narvaez outlasted cramps-stricken Nico Riego de Dios in an all-Filipino battle of baseline artists, 7-5, 4-6, 2-0 (retired), yesterday to capture the boys' title of the Phinma-ITF junior tennis championship's second leg at the Yñares Socio-Cultural and Sports Center in Pasig City.

The country's finest age-group players battled for two hours and 30 minutes until De Dios surrendered due to excruciating pain on both legs.

"My hard work paid off," said Narvaez, 17, who wrapped up his first-ever ITF junior title after coming close to winning it in New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia and Thailand. "Everything that coach Manny (Tecson) taught me, I was able to apply today."

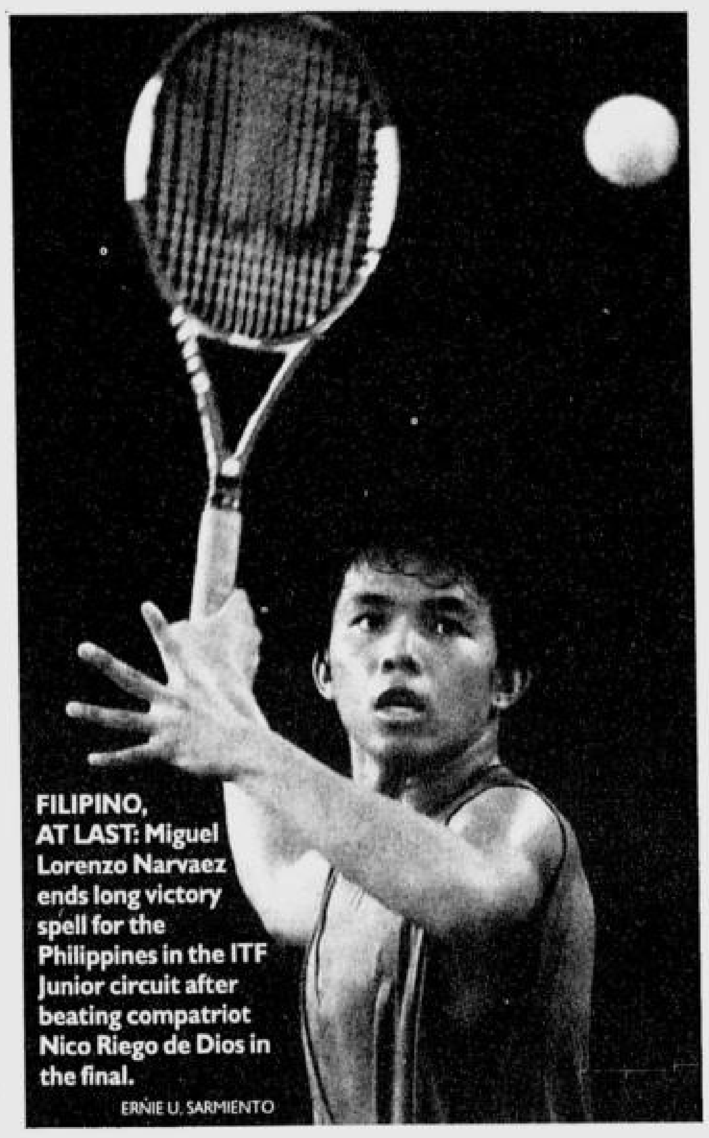
But Narvaez acknowledged the tough stand by De Dios, who pushed him to the wall as they slugged it out in long baselines rallies.

"I'd like to give credit to Nico, he played a fantastic game," added Narvaez, who now holds a 2-0 personal score against De Dios. "Both of us were tired, but I told myself not to give up. I'd like to thank the Lord for giving me the strength to continue fighting."

In girls' singles, Liechtenstein's Stephanie Vogt breezed past Austrian Natascha Bredl, 6-1, 6-3, to clinch her first title in only her fourth ITF event.

Narvaez scored a double victory when he paired with Indonesian Fendy Gunawan to win the boys' doubles crown, beating top seed Australians Hugh McDonald and William McNamee, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

Foreign-based Filipinos Edilyn Balanga and Denise Dy downed top seeds Vogt and Kathrina Negrin, 7-5, 6-2, to again win the girls' doubles title.



FILIPINO, AT LAST: Miguel Lorenzo Narvaez ends long victory spell for the Philippines in the ITF Junior circuit after beating compatriot Nico Riego de Dios in the final.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Battle of Courts finals at Rockwell Tent

TWELVE QUALIFIERS FROM A SERIES of eliminations all over the country will dispute next month the national championship of the Battle of the Courts: National Interclub Badminton Cup Year 2, presented by Smart: Simply Amazing, INQUIRER Badminton and Mizuno.

Venue of the Nov. 5 and 6 showdown among the best weekend warriors representing their respective home clubs is the plush Rockwell Tent.

The tent will be transformed into a badminton hall for the Battle of the Courts finals complete with a players' lounge for the 120 participants.

Competing for the prestigious INQUIRER Cup are its current owner, The Zone Badminton Club, as well as Centro Atletico, Quezon City Sports Club, Alabang Country Club, Alabang Racquet Club, Peregrine Badminton Center, Family Badminton Center, Valle Verde Country Club, Myan's, Portside of Cebu, Smash Ville Fitness Center of Davao and Powersmash.

The Battle of the Courts is also principally backed by Unilever, Citibank OnLine, Rockwell Land Corp., and Cebu Pacific as the official carrier.

The other supporters of the tourney are Pinnacle Health Pointe & Pinnacle Spa, Hero, Viva Mineral Water, Poweradeade and Wilson as the official shuttlecock. Media partners are Solar Sports, Wave 89.1 and Jam 88.3, while Marco Polo Davao is the official hotel for the Mindanao leg.

All members of this year's winning team will win an all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong Disneyland.

A badminton mini bazaar will also be set up during the finals weekend.

Why did Roy Jones Jr. do those silly things?

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

THE MESSAGE WAS CURT, DIRECT TO THE point:

"Roy Jones Jr.'s style is the modern way of scalping people's interest in boxing—a HO-HUMDINGER."

It came around lunchtime yesterday, after the slightly delayed satellite feed of the Antonio Tarver-Roy Jones Jr. world light heavyweight boxing championship fight from Tampa, Florida.

The sender, Gregorio "Boyong" Bulatao, definitely felt disgusted after watching Jones give a forgettable 12-round exhibition of what a former pound-for-pound king should not be doing inside the ring.

We can't blame the sender of the message. Suddenly, it's no longer easy saying something nice about Roy Jones Jr., who not too long ago was revered as a magnificent, masterful boxing machine who may not find an equal in this lifetime.

* * *

The bout was billed as a rubber match.

The combatants had split their two previous fights.

Jones, who won bout No. 1 by majority decision, was knocked out cold by Tarver the next time around.

You see, Jones had actually failed to make a good account of himself in the run-up to a third meeting with Tarver for the light heavyweight championship of the world.

Prior to yesterday's well-attended main event, Jones had also been knocked out by Glenn Johnson.

* * *

Still, it was easy selling the enigmatic future Hall-of-Famer.

Riding on Jones' glowing reputation, which heaved to golden proportions after a big win over John Ruiz for a piece of the heavyweight championship of the world, yesterday's bout was peddled as a first-rate pay-per-view presentation.

So what happened? How come majority of those who watched Tarver-Jones Part 3 felt robbed and cheated?

Easy: The biggest ingredient for sure displeasure was present.

Jones did not come to box seriously.

* * *

It soon became obvious Jones had reported for the title fight ready for a totally different assignment.

You see, boxing contests, at their best, never fail to rise to the level of great debates.

But with the manner Jones had cheaply avoided the chief issue, the main event soon slipped into a shallow comedy.

If it were, say, Chaplin doing the fox trot and rolling his funny eyes on the black-and-white screen, yesterday's show would've been close to perfect.

Jones, a rapper, could be pardoned as his heart had always leaned toward the theatrical.

But what he did inside the ring was no longer funny.

* * *

Jones had gone a lousy step further in damaging his ring reputation.

It's like this: Great boxing contests never fail to bring out the best in fighters.

Tarver, the defending champ, provided the other half of what could've been great, immortal theater.

How yesterday's well-publicized title fight brought out the worst in Roy Jones Jr. was not easy to comprehend.

With conduct unbecoming of a great fighter, who at one time was branded a ring genius, Jones ended up souring up this sweet science they call boxing.

Fans, fed a tasteless comedy, ended up feeling robbed, cursing.

It's hard to understand. But even Roy Jones Jr. may not have understood why he had to do all those silly things.

Liza, Paeng head BWC cast

ASIA'S TOP LADY BOWLER AND THREE FORmer World Cup champions will be among 80 contenders in the four-day 2005 Bowling World Cup national finals starting Thursday at Paeng's Midtown Bowl.

Liza del Rosario, who recently topped the Hong Kong leg of the Asian Bowling Tour, and ex-titlists Paeng Nepomuceno, Bong Coo and CJ Suarez head the huge field seeking to represent the country in the World Cup international finals set Nov. 13-20 in Ljubjlana, Slovenia.

Del Rosario tallied 2273, Nepomuceno carded 2464, Coo recorded 2154 and Suarez submitted 2604 in the center finals.

Del Rosario and Chester King won last year and finished third and fifth, respectively, in the international finals. King shot 2387 in the center finals.

The other finalists: Ladies—Baby David, 1833; Wanda Teer, 1620; Grace Roces, 1726; Jingay Facuri, 1627; Sunshine Rodriguez, 1387; Rose Dufalla, 1713; Annie Licarte, 1664; Becky Ramirez, 1615; Jane Alvarez, 1693; Alice Cabazor, 1660; Juanita Li, 1518; Baby Que, 1614; Rose Duque, 1603, Meriam Garcia, 1623; Ludy Garcia, 1546, Lordes Infante, 1623; Marie Gamma, 1635' Yuyek Chavez, 1597; Irene Benitez, 1952; Ellen Ramos, 1867; Lydia Malvar, 1626; Pinky Buenaflor, 1757; Marita Manuel, 1656; Tiffanie Chan, 1641; Meg Manalo, 1613; Sol Bagalay, 1448; Penny Pascual, 1362; Angeli Lao, 1868; Maan Catolico, 1549; Myra Barroga, 1530; Lilian Teano, 1535; Nariza Naval, 1519; Nida Lagrisola, 1757; Evelyn Monzon, 1498; Susan Benitez, 1450; Vivian dela Pena, 1709, Letty Pineda, 1596; Josie Melgarejo, 1509; Rochelle Munsayac, 2225; Abbie Gan, 1998; Sally Ongtong, 1603; Baby Diosana, 1780; Jo Anne Bonifacio, 1544; Jojo Canare, 1904; Vilma Fabros, 1714; Elaine Florencio, 1862; Juliet Bustos, 1584; Jeanette Gomez, 1572; Kim Caro, 1616; Faye Piol, 1598; Dole Sainz, 1568; Christie Camba, 1611; Luz Manzano, 1666; Evelyn Cruz, 1559; Philip Olona, 1893; Tess Eusebio, 1719; Ces Yap, 2113; Susan Raquipiso, 1551; Abby Espiritu, 1699; Jojie Cabacungan, 1535; LV Dytoc, 1519; Myriam Enajo, 1624; Perla Pacheco, 1594; Ivy Porcia, 1432; Ching Amante, 1518; Cherie Depano, 1507; Aurora Co, 1514; Jane Bonifacio, 1584; Mitchelle Co, 1474; Alice Bautista, 1696, Jaymee Bautista, 1684; Caron Bariso, 1447; Julie Abuda, 1388; Helen See, 1444; Lily Ngo, 1540, Mylene Padilla, 1484; Apple Posadas, 1990; and Cynthia Gutierrez, 1688.

Menu
Camera

IF YOU WERE ABLE TO SELL A LOT OF THESE, JOIN THE 1st YOUNG MARKET MASTERS AWARDS

Young marketing professionals, now is your chance to sell your achievements in Mansmith and Fielders, Inc.'s 1st Young Market Masters Awards (1st YMMA). The 1st YMMA seeks to recognize and honor young achievers who excel in marketing and entrepreneurship and to inspire a new generation of innovative marketing professionals.

The 1st YMMA is open to any Filipino citizen, 35 years and younger (by the end of the year of nomination) with at least 2 full years of service with his or her company at the time of nomination.

Two categories are open for nomination. The Marketing Category is open to young achievers who may be called marketing manager, brand manager, trade marketing manager, account manager and the like.

The Entrepreneur Category seeks to honor the owner or part-owner of an enterprise who are the main catalyst of the business.

Early submission of entries shall be on Oct. 28, 2005. Absolute deadline is on Nov. 25, 2005. For complete mechanics, reach us through our contact details below.

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Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners, Inc.

SHOW OF SUPPORT: President Macapagal-Arroyo inducts the new officials of the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners Inc. (Marho), namely: Elias Chua, Enrique Javier, Nathaniel Velasco, Amado Bagatsing, Antonio de Ubago Jr. (auditor), Raymund Puyat (VP-membership), Rep. Benhur Abalos (president), Eric Tagle (VP-finance) Butch Mamon (VP-racing), Jake Maderazo (VP-business development), Inocencio Crisostomo (corporate secretary), Nestor Borromeo, Jose Mari Franco and Antonio Tan Jr.

Richer, bigger Breeders' Cup Festival up

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED SHOW OF support to the local horse racing industry, President Macapagal-Arroyo took time out from her busy schedule to induct the new officers of the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners Inc. (Marho) during the association's recent Fellowship Night at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Inducted were Mandaluyong Rep. Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr. as Marho president, Eric Tagle, Butch Mamon, Raymond Puyat and Jake Maderazo as vice presidents for finance, racing, membership and business development, respectively; Inocencio Crisostomo as corporate secretary, Antonio de Ubago Jr. as auditor, and Amado Bagatsing, Nestor Borromeo, Elias Chua, Jose Mari Franco, Enrique Javier, Antonio Tan Jr. and Nathaniel Velasco as directors.

Abalos later took the opportunity to rally support for local horse racing, presenting the industry's problems and concerns with regard to high taxes and the proliferation of illegal betting activities and providing an insight on the industry's enormous growth potential given the incentives.

Maderazo, meanwhile, presented highlights of the P8-million Marho Breeders' Cup Racing Festival and Championship Day, the biggest and the richest horse racing event in the country slated Nov. 15-20 at the Santa Ana Park, as well as the Marho Breeders' Cup Stakes Series.

"This year's Marho Breeders' Cup Championship Day will once again be highlighted by five P1-million championship races and a host of other top money events," Maderazo announced. "For 2006, we plan to increase the Marho Breeders' Cup Championship Race purse to P2 million each and host a yearlong schedule of stakes races with a total allocation of P4 million in prizes."

Now on its 10th year, the Marho Breeders' Cup is local horse racing's most prestigious championship event with more than P50 million in purses staked.

Established to promote the breeding of top-class race horses, qualification to the Breeders' Cup is accomplished through advance nomination of prospective runners, who must be locally bred.

The Marho Breeders' Cup is the undisputed top grosser since 2000 of the P30-billion Philippine horse racing industry. In 2004, gross sales for the six-day festival reached a record P185.7 million.

WORLD WOMEN'S BOXING

Martinez joins Abaniel in semifinals

MITCHEL MARTINEZ SUBDUED TURKEY'S Teuta Cuni on points Saturday to secure at least a bronze medal for the Philippines in the lightweight (60-kg) division of the third World Women's Boxing Championship in Podolsk, Russia.

Martinez will meet another Turk, Tatar Gulsum, in the semifinals, while Gretchen Abaniel, the Philippine bet in the pinweight division, will face the highly regarded Jong Ok of North Korea.

If they win, the Filipinos will be assured of silver medals.

Martinez opened the match by landing a solid left to the body of Cuni and took a 5-2 lead at end of the first round.

Sensing that her taller Turkish opponent had a weak stomach, Martinez continued to concentrate on the body to maintain her three-point lead at the end of the second round.

The tough Filipina continued her onslaught in the third round, but absorbed a two-point deduction for ducking low.

The Philippines is competing for the first time in the prestigious 25-country event that will end today.

MARTINEZ: Sure of bronze

Bengals close to ending drought

By Jasmine W. Payo

GAMES THURSDAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
11 a.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson (Women-Game 2)
1 p.m.—La Salle vs UP (Jrs-Game 2)
3 p.m.—Awards rites
3:30 p.m.—La Salle vs FEU (Srs-Game 2)

THE DE LA SALLE Zobel Bengals moved within a win of their first UAAP junior basketball title after cruising past the University of the Philippines Junior Maroons, 73-49, in Game 1 of their best-of-three series yesterday at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Joshua Webb delivered 19 points and nine rebounds to lead a dominant performance by the Bengals' first five.

"We're happy but it's not yet complete," said La Salle coach Boris Aldeguer. "We're not going to relax until the last buzzer has sounded and we're declared as winners."

The Bengals, who have yet to bag a championship crown since joining the league in 1986, charged to a 19-7 start behind Webb and point guard Simon Atkins.

The Alabang-based squad led by as many as 27 points, 73-46, in the homestretch.

"UP came from a tiring game (against the Ateneo Eaglets)," said Aldeguer. "We played our cards right and the lead just kept getting bigger."

The Maroons couldn't find their range, shooting a miserable 13.5 percent in the first half.

UP main man Francis Maniego delivered a paltry eight points but grabbed 18 rebounds.

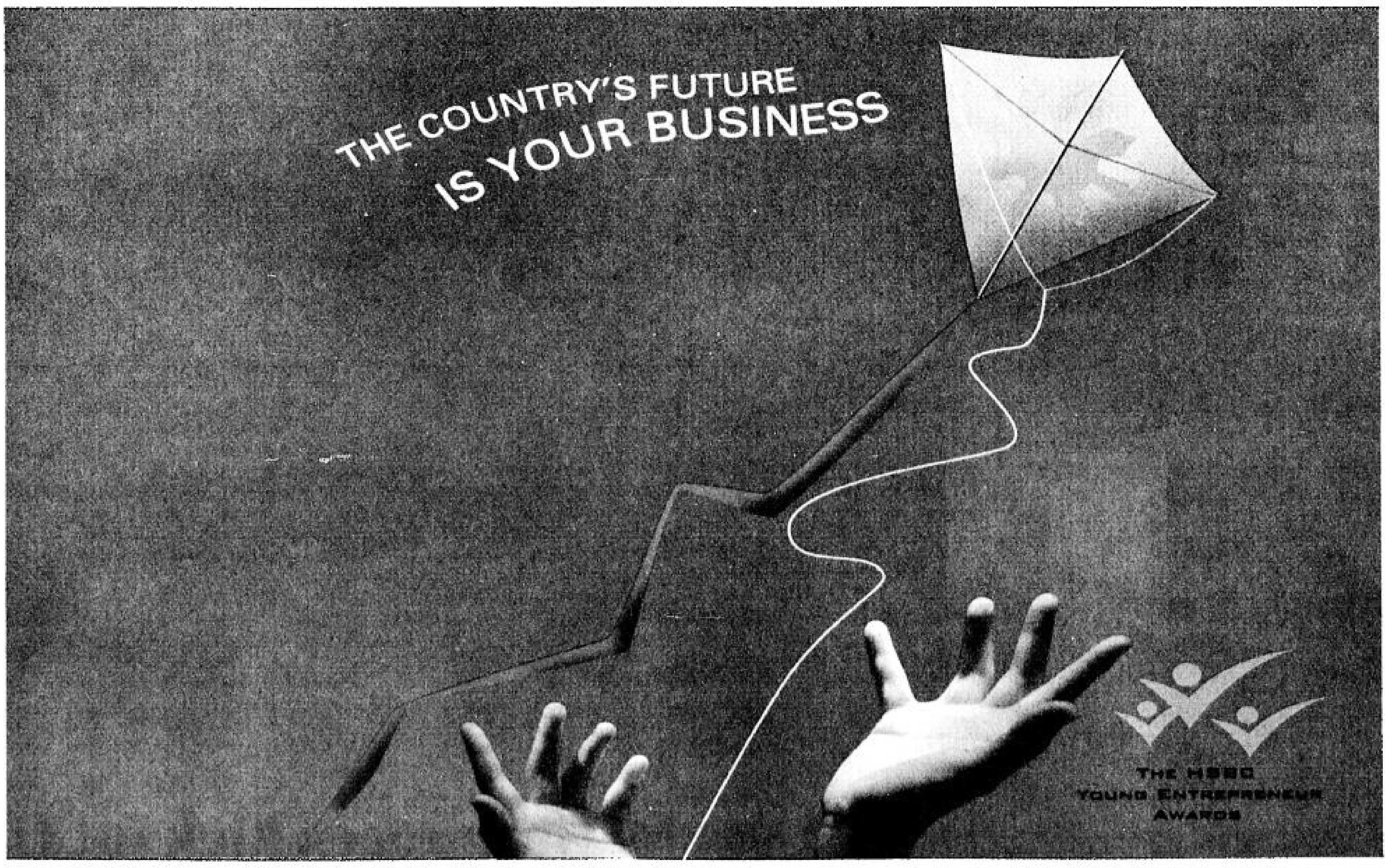
The scores:

LA SALLE 73—Webb 19, Reyes 13, Salvador 11, Atkins 11, Urra 6, De Asis 6, Malixi 3, Tumlos 2, Fernandez 2.

UP 49—Bautista 9, Marfori 8, Maniego 8, Olan 5, Cruz 4, Buenaventure 4, Moreno 3, Lloanag 2, Lazo 2, Espiritu 2, Sanchez 1, Isip 1, Gamad 0, Catanoan 0.

Quarters: 19-7, 29-16, 52-33, 73-49

The HSBC Young Entrepreneur Awards 2005-06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J-Ro trails Korean rookie by 3 shots

JENNIFER Rosales tees off on the par-five second hole during the second round of the LPGA Office Depot Championship. J-Ro, as she is known, is three shots off the lead after two rounds. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES—THE PHILIPPINES' JENNIFER Rosales faltered a bit but managed just enough to keep within striking distance of the lead after a second round 70 Saturday in the Office Depot Championship.

Rosales started the day just a stroke off the lead after a first-round 66.

South Korea's Hee-won Han, seeking her first LPGA victory of the season, fired a three-under-par 68 on Saturday to take a two-shot lead.

After slow play and darkness forced the first round to be completed on Saturday morning, another delay struck as fog halted play for more than three and a half hours.

That meant 72 players were left to complete their second round in the $1.3 million tournament on Sunday.

Han is two shots in front Scotland's Catriona Matthew and France's Karine Icher, both of whom were stranded on the course when darkness fell.

Matthew played eight holes at 5-under, while Icher was 1-under through seven.

Seven golfers were three shots back, including tour starlet Natalie Gulbis, who was 1-under through seven holes.

Others in that pack are Tina Barrett, Rosales, Michelle Redman, Wendy Ward, Chile's Nicole Perrot and British Open champion Jeong Jang of South Korea.

Only Barrett (66) and Rosales completed their second rounds.

Two-time defending champion Annika Sorenstam signed for a 70 for a three-under total of 133.

The other Rosales

Jenny's brother Gerald soared with an 80 to finish tied at 51st in the Crowne Plaza Open in Beijing, China. Danny Zarate finished tied for 40th after a 72.

Thailand's Prayad Marksaeng won the event with a final round 68. *AFP*

ROY JONES Jr. (left) eludes a wild swing by Antonio Tarver, who nearly falls over the ropes, in the 10th round. But that was just one of the few times Jones made his opponent look bad. AP

Tarver decisions Jones, retains light heavy title

TAMPA, FLORIDA—ANTONIO TARVER raised his arms in triumph and climbed up on the ropes. Roy Jones Jr. smiled, gave his corner a high-five with his glove and admitted he was beaten by a better fighter.

Tarver retained his IBO light heavyweight title Saturday night with a unanimous 12-round decision over Jones, his second victory over his longtime rival in 16 months.

"He came to reclaim his throne, but it wasn't happening tonight," Tarver said.

Tarver won the crown in May 2004 with a stunning second-round knockout of the former world champion in four weight classifications. He nearly dropped him again when he hurt Jones with a right hand in the 11th round, but couldn't finish him off.

"I was good, but not good enough," Jones said. "I'm satisfied with my performance, and I realize I lost the fight."

Tarver improved to 24-3 in a career that's taken off in the past three years. Jones dropped to 49-3 and has lost his last three fights—two by knockout.

The bout was the third between the rivals in less than two years—fourth overall if you count an amateur meeting that Jones won in 1982 when they were 13-year-old kids growing up in Florida.

Jones entered hoping to rebound from the knockout losses to Tarver and Glen Johnson that raised questions about whether he was washed up and should retire. Tarver's right in the 11th sent him reeling into the ropes, and the champion closed in to try to end the fight but appeared to tire.

Jones escaped from the ropes when Tarver swung wildly and missed, and finished the round even though he was blinking his eyes repeatedly, as if he was having difficulty seeing.

"He caught me with a good shot and I think that was the turning point in the fight," Jones said, adding that he has not made a decision on whether to retire. *AP*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
MAGALLANES DRIVE, INTRAMUROS
1002 MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and subsequently to bid for sanitation, maintenance and janitorial work and services to be rendered at the premises of (1) the BI Main Office, Intramuros, Manila, (2) the BI Detention Center, Bicutan, Metro Manila and at (3) BI-PEZA Building, Pasay City.

Prospective bidders may obtain eligibility requirements at the BAC Secretariat, General Services Section, 3rd Floor, Bureau of Immigration Main Office, Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila from **10 to 14 October 2005** during office hours. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents shall be on **18 October 2005.** All applicants shall be notified on the result of the eligibility screening. Only eligible bidders shall be issued the approved scope of works and other bidding documents and requirements. Submission and opening of bids shall be announced on a later date.

The Bureau of Immigration reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and accept the offer most advantageous to the government. The Bureau of Immigration likewise assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **TEODORO B. DELARMENTE**
Associate Commissioner
Chairman, BAC (General)

(PDI - September 29, October 3 & 6, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cotabato
CITY OF KIDAPAWAN

Loan Agreement # PH-P200

INVITATION TO BID

The Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education, has received an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of P1,749 million (Y7,210 million) towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP) dated December 28, 1999. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments for the new construction of the different school buildings. In view hereof, the Government of the Philippines through DepED-SEDIP with the participation of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Kidapawan City as implementor, herein after called the Agency, wishes to received bids for the new construction of the following schools, to wit;

Package No.	Name of School	Location	Building Type
01	Spottswood NHS	Spottswood Methodist High School, Kidapawan City	2 Storey 4 classrooms with Science Laboratory Bldg., Library, Faculty Room and Toilets

Disbursement of the ODA loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans". No party other than the Department of Education shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claims to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, the agency will take appropriate measures for finance.

JBIC requires that the bidders and Contractors, as well as DepED-SEDIP under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loan and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standards of ethics during the procurement and execution of contracts, in pursuance of this policy, JBIC:

1. *will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;*
2. *will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA loans if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt and fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded financed by JBIC ODA loans or other Japanese ODA.*

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) - registered contactors or joint venture contractors with PCAB license category **Medium A,** classification B, General Building.

Bidders may obtain further information and acquire the bidding documents from

The Bids and Awards Committee
Kidapawan City
Tel. Nos. : 064-288-1604
Telefax No. :

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting October 7, 2005 upon submission of a letter of intent to the above office and payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00.

Pre-bid conference shall be conducted on October 16, 2005 at 10.00 AM to be held at Kidapawan City Hall.

Submission of bid together with all the documents required in the bid documents must be delivered to the aforesaid venue on October 28, 2005, 10.00 AM at Kidapawan City Hall. All bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the bidders or their legally authorized representatives.

(PDI- Sept. 26 & Oct. 3, 2005)

(Sgd.) RODOLFO C. CABILES, JR.
Chairperson, BAC

ATENDIDO (left) is awarded by Forest Hills chair Ferdinand Santos.

Atendido captures 2 crowns

FERDIE ATENDIDO WON THE low gross and Class A titles in the Chairman's Cup tournament handed out last Saturday at the Forest Hills Golf Club in Antipolo City.

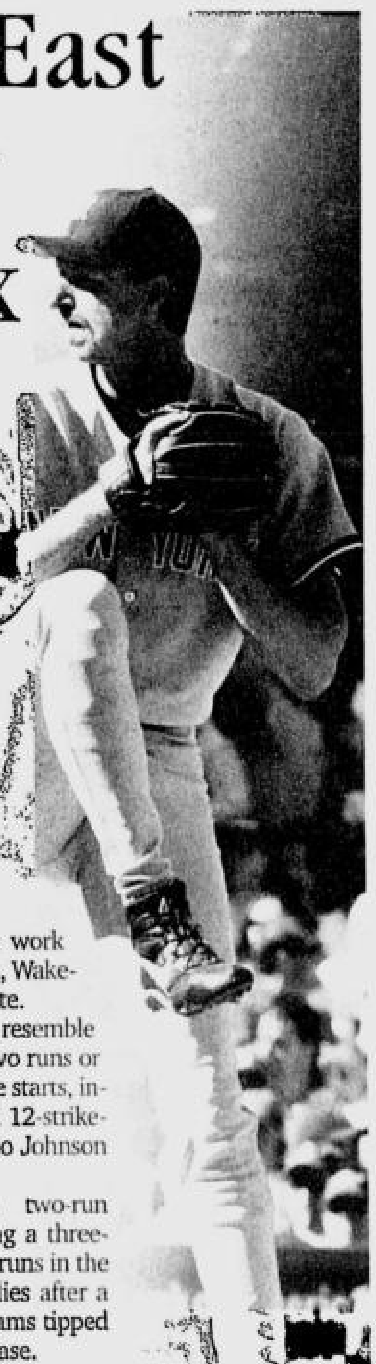
He became the low gross champion after a 70 at the Jack Nicklaus course. His six-handicap gave him the class A crown over Larry Patnongon and Bobby Ysip.

Allan Yap captured the low net trophy with a 62 in the event presented by Golforce Inc. and Sun Cellular with major sponsors Wheels Distributors-Hyundai E. Rodriguez, New Life and Aesthetic Center, Turf Co., Fury Active Eyewear and Foodlink.

CJH, Fila Watches, Gerry's Grill, Globe, Gruppo Armani, Group Management Dev't., Heinz-UFC, Megaprimus, MRT, Primal Enterprises, Primepower Manpower, and Taisho Hizon Mfg. Inc.-Lipovitan were the other backers.

Other winners: Albert Hay (Class B), Ronaldo Cruz (Class C), Paolo Nuguid (Class D), Bobe Carpio (Class E), Cristina Ojeda (ladies) and Manuel Valdez (guests and sponsors).

Yankees claim AL East crown with victory over rivals Red Sox



JOHNSON: Shaky start AFP

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—THE New York Yankees claimed their eighth straight American League East division title here Saturday with an 8-4 victory over division rivals and reigning World Series champions Boston Red Sox.

Five-time Cy Young award winner Randy Johnson survived two shaky innings before delivering the kind of dominant performance that led the Yankees to sign him, while New York belted three home runs off Boston's Tim Wakefield in the first five innings.

The Yankees are one game ahead of Boston with one to play. Even if the Red Sox tie the Yankees, New York has the edge in the tiebreaker, leading the season series 10-8.

Curt Schilling will start Sunday for the Red Sox, who need a win to clinch the playoff wild card.

The Red Sox have a one-game lead over the Cleveland Indians, who dropped a 4-3 decision to the Chicago White Sox on Saturday.

One day after David Wells shut down the Yankees for seven innings, fellow 42-year-old lefthander Johnson (17-8) allowed three runs, five hits and three walks with eight strikeouts in 7 1/3 innings. He improved to 6-0 in his last six decisions and 5-0 against Boston this season.

Johnson gave up his 31st homer of the year, a mammoth two-run blast by Manny Ramirez in the first inning, and walked consecutive batters in the second to load the bases with two outs. But after starting Edgar Renteria with a 2-0 count, Johnson came back with a 94 miles-per-hour fastball on a 3-ball, 2-strike offering to record the strikeout.

Johnson was dominant thereafter, yielding just three hits until a seventh-inning homer by Tony Graffanino that cut Boston's deficit to 7-3.

But Johnson set down the last eight batters he faced, including striking out the side in the sixth.

Tom Gordon surrendered a run but got the final two outs in the eighth and Mariano Rivera closed out the Yankees' 16th win in 20 games, a streak that helped overcome a four-game deficit to the Red Sox.

While Johnson was able to work out of his early-inning problems, Wakefield (16-12) was not as fortunate.

The knuckleballer did not resemble the pitcher who had allowed two runs or fewer in four of his previous five starts, including a three-hit, career-high 12-strikeout performance in a 1-0 loss to Johnson and the Yankees on Sept. 11.

Wakefield surrendered a two-run homer to Gary Sheffield during a three-run first. He yielded two more runs in the second on a pair of sacrifice flies after a hard line drive by Bernie Williams tipped off Kevin Millar's glove at first base.

A homer by Japan's Hideki Matsui in the third gave New York a 6-2 advantage, and Alex Rodriguez belted his 48th homer in the fifth, snapping a tie with Boston's David Ortiz for the AL lead.

Wakefield departed after five innings, allowing a season-high seven runs and seven hits. *AFP*

Lagman spanks Milo tennis foe

ILOILO—JACOB LAGMAN OF CEBU TAKES another crack at the Malaysia trip grand prize following a 6-0, 6-0 win over Aaron Reyes in the unisex 10-under division of the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup Visayas regional qualifying round here at the Provincial Sports Complex Tennis Club Sunday.

Lagman takes on Carl Suriga, who edged Jade Capadocia, 6-4, 6-7, 7-6. Bernardine Siso blasted Paul Aligaen, 6-0, 6-0, and Ralph Sobrevega scored a similar shut-out past Jeffrey Alviar to advance in the boys' 12-under class.

In the boys' 14-under bracket of the Milo netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Adidas, Nestor Pueyo Jr. whipped Samuel Tonogan, 6-4, 6-2 to move into the next round.

Drag races kick off Oct. 29

THE BATANGAS RACING CIRCUIT WILL host a four-leg drag racing series dubbed as the BRC Philippine National Drag Racing Championship, next month at the BRC Drag Strip in Rosario, Batangas.

Teams from Cebu and Cagayan de Oro are set to test their mettle against topnotch drivers from Manila and Batangas.

The overall champion of the series becomes an automatic contender for the AAP Drag Racing Driver of the Year and the Golden Wheel Award this January.

The series will kick off on Oct. 29 at the BRC Drag Strip while the next three legs are set on Nov. 19, Dec. 10 and Jan. 29, 2006.

The event is open to all drag racing enthusiasts, who will vie for the titles in the Quick 8, the Pro Class, the Sportsman Class and the Hot Street division.

The BRC Drag Strip, the country's first permanent drag strip, is patterned after the Las Vegas Speedway in Nevada.

The challenging track has a total distance of 1,320 feet with a runoff braking distance of 1,000 feet.

It also features an elevation change of 20 feet at the end designed to slow down cars after posting their elapse time at the finish line.

For details, call the Batangas Racing Circuit at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241.

"We are happy that competitors enjoyed a different experience and the convenience of racing at the BRC Drag Strip and found the track quite challenging but safe," said BRC Drag Racing race director Fil Gulfin.

The current record time is 12.134 seconds posted by Jose Uy of Blanche Racing in the second BRC Drag Racing Festival.

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1 THE PERFECT CATCH • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 THE TRANSPORTER 2
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 LAND OF THE DEAD
1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:45

5 THE PERFECT MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 ONE MISSED CALL 2
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 WILD SIDE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

8 LOVESTRUCK
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

9 DARK WATER
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

10 DEUCE BIGALOW
Sneak Preview

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE TRANSPORTER 2
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2 ONE MISSED CALL 2
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3 THE DESCENT
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4 DEUCE BIGALOW
Sneak Preview

5 BLADE OF THE ROSE 10:20 12:15 2:10
THE PERFECT CATCH 4:30 6:20 8:10 10:00

6 LAND OF THE DEAD 10:10 12:10 2:10 4:10
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7 THE PERFECT MAN
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METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 DEUCE BIGALOW
Sneak Preview

2 THE DESCENT
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3 ONE MISSED CALL 2
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4 LAND OF THE DEAD
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5 DARK WATER
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6 THE PERFECT CATCH
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7 THE TRANSPORTER 2
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

8 LOVESTRUCK
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3228-30

1 THE DESCENT
2 A SOUND OF THUNDER
3 DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 DEUCE BIGALOW Sneak Preview

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2578

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE CROW 4
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-6378

1 THE TRANSPORTER 2
2 THE PERFECT MAN
3 DEUCE BIGALOW Sneak Preview
4 THE CONSTANT GARDENER

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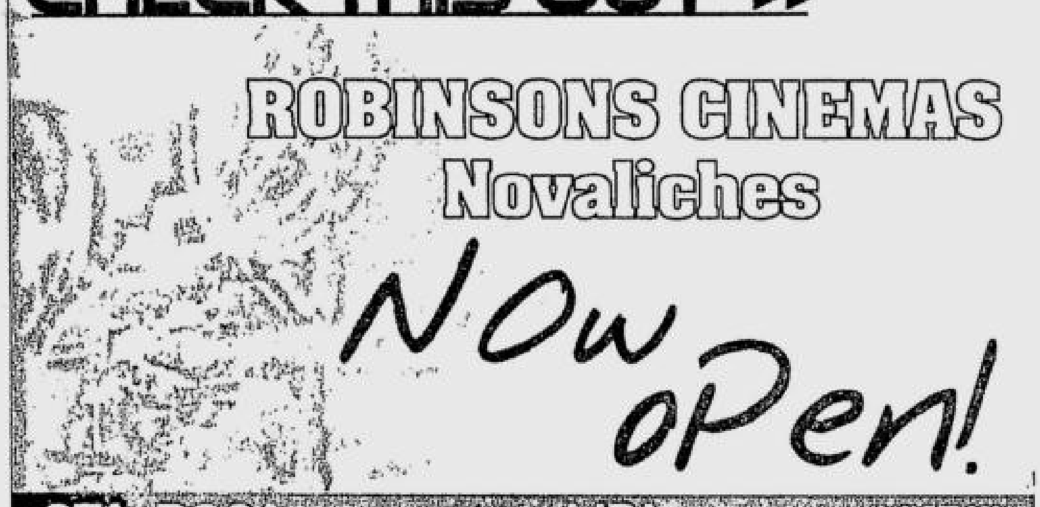

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2 EVIL EYES
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 DARK WATER
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2 LOVESTRUCK
3 YEAR OF THE YAO
4 CINDERELLA MAN

DASMARIÑAS (046) 862-2126 / (046) 416-4332

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE CAVE
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 DARK WATER

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 DEUCE BIGALOW Sneak Preview
4 DARK WATER

IMUS (046) 875-3838 / (046) 471-8188

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2 THE PERFECT CATCH
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 DEUCE BIGALOW Sneak Preview
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE

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3 THE LONGEST YARD
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5 THE CAVE
6 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 DUBAI	2 TRANSPORTER 2	3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2	4 ONE MISSED CALL 2			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2	2 DUBAI	3 THX LAND OF THE DEAD 12:30, 2:30, 4:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE DESCENT	5 PERFECT MAN	6 PERFECT CATCH	7 TRANSPORTER 2
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL For more details, call 752-7865	2 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL For more details, call 752-7865					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX DUBAI 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 CONSTANT GARDENER 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PERFECT MAN 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 TRANSPORTER 2 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DEUCE BIGALOW 2	2 TRANSPORTER 2	3 DUBAI	4 THE DESCENT	5 PERFECT MAN		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DUBAI	2 LAND OF THE DEAD	3 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER	4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2			

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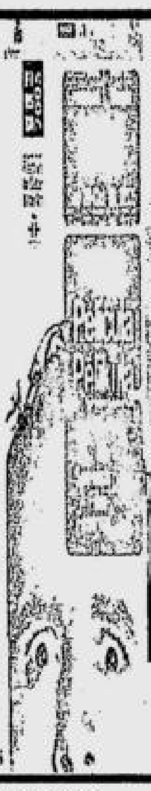

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Araneta Center Leisure Guide

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EUROPEAN GIGOLO
1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:20 / 9:20
THE PERFECT MAN
1:00 / 3:35 / 6:10 / 8:45
DUBAI
12:10 / 2:25 / 4:40 / 6:55 / 9:10
TRANSPORTER 2
12:35 / 2:50 / 5:05 / 7:20 / 9:35
THE DESCENT
1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
TRANSPORTER 2
2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00
LAND OF THE DEAD
1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
DARK WATER
12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
PERFECT CATCH
12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① DUBAI
11:05 / 1:20 / 3:35 / 5:50 / 8:05
② TRANSPORTER 2
1:25 / 3:40 / 5:55 / 8:10
③ CONSTANT GARDENER
12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
④ ONE MISSED CALL 2
12:10 R3 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
⑤ BLADE OF THE ROSE
12:10 R3 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
Oct 5 Wed | COCA COLA vs GINEBRA 4:40 pm | STA LUCIA vs ALASKA 7:25 pm
Oct 6 Thu | ADMU vs Adu Wom 11 am UP vs DLSZ Jrs 1 pm | FINALS GAME 2: DLSU vs FEU Srs 3:30 pm

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

PCAP 5-stag fights kick off today at Makati Coliseum

COCKFIGHT action resumes at the Makati Coliseum as the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) holds its 5-stag derby today starting at 5 p.m. Seventy-three fights are scheduled in this, the fifth of nine PCAP stagfests at the venue which will be the basis in selecting the group's Stagfighter of the Year. Lawyer Willie Villarica's entry VP Villarica Uma leads the series with 15 points. Last Monday, the Fajinfer entry of Jet Fernando, Pepito Ngo and the Jingco brothers emerged as solo champion with five victories. Next up at the venue is the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Stag Derby which will be held tomorrow and on Thursday. Derby hosts are Ruel Ricafort, JV Magsaysay, Edgar Santos, the Jingco brothers and Tony Marfori. Entries must be submitted today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. The WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. is gearing up for the "Pamaskong Salpukan 6-Cock Derby" slated Dec. 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 26 and 28. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

Luzon breeders' derby gets going at Araneta Coliseum

FIERCE encounters are expected today as the championship round of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-Stag Derby kicks off today at the Araneta Coliseum. Derby starts at 12 noon with 170 fights on tap. From a field of 150, only 19 entries remained unbeaten with three wins each after two days of elimination rounds of the event sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc., Robichem, Excellence Gamefowl Specialists, Thunderbird Enertone and Vitarich Panabong. Among them are the entries of Alex Tang of Bicol, Anthony Lim of Quezon, Tony Boy Tabora of Baguio, Boy Gamilla of Bulacan, Joey Contreras of Laguna, Jong Morales of Marinduque, Bobby del Rosario and Dong Chung of Rizal. The second and third legs of the derby are slated Oct. 10, 13 and 18; and Nov. 8 and 10. For inquiries, call 926-7808, 924-5072 or 0920-5851940.

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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	PERFECT MAN	1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00	GP
2	DUBAI	1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
3	TRANSPORTER 2	1:20, 3:45, 6:10 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
4	DEUCE BIGALOW 2	2:10, 4:15, 6:20 8:25, 10:30	R-13

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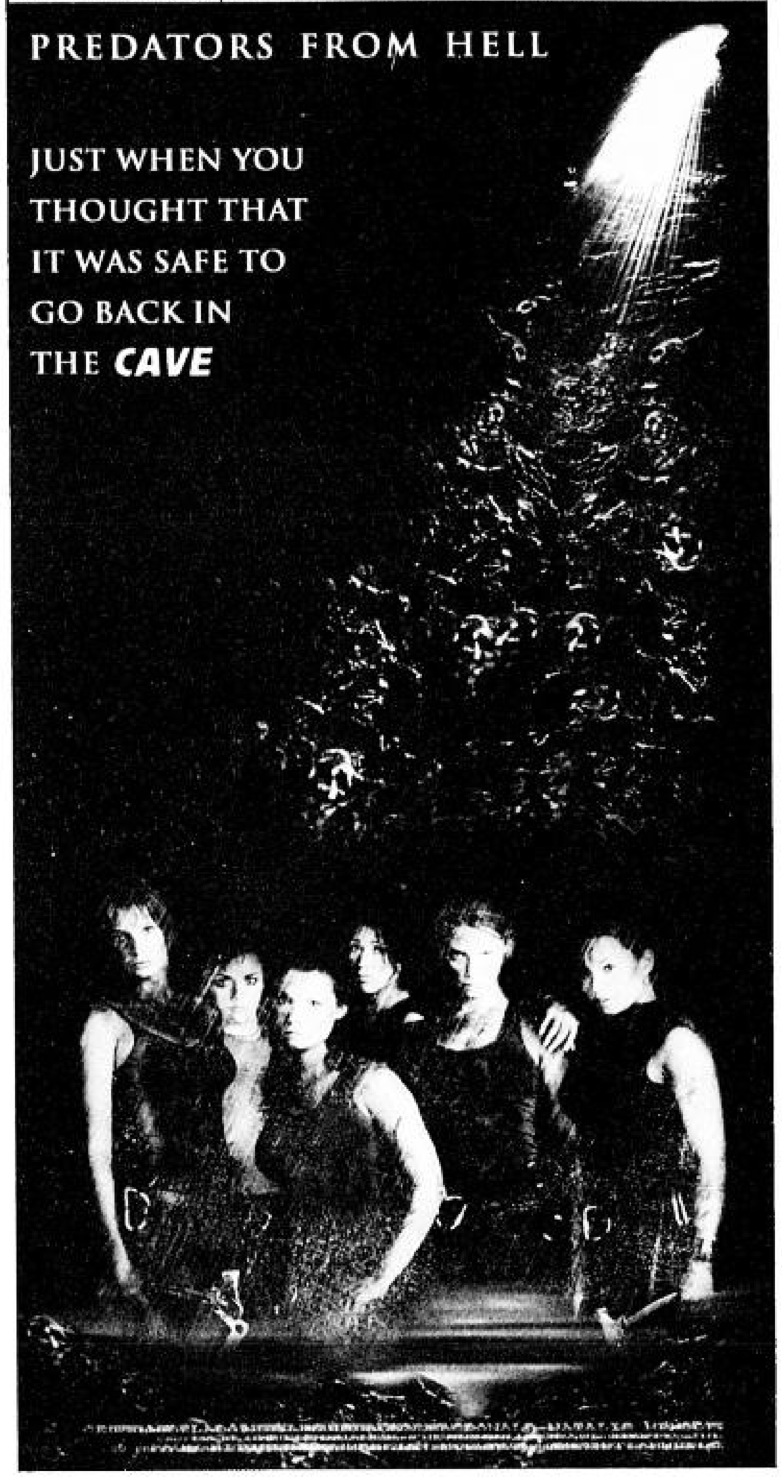
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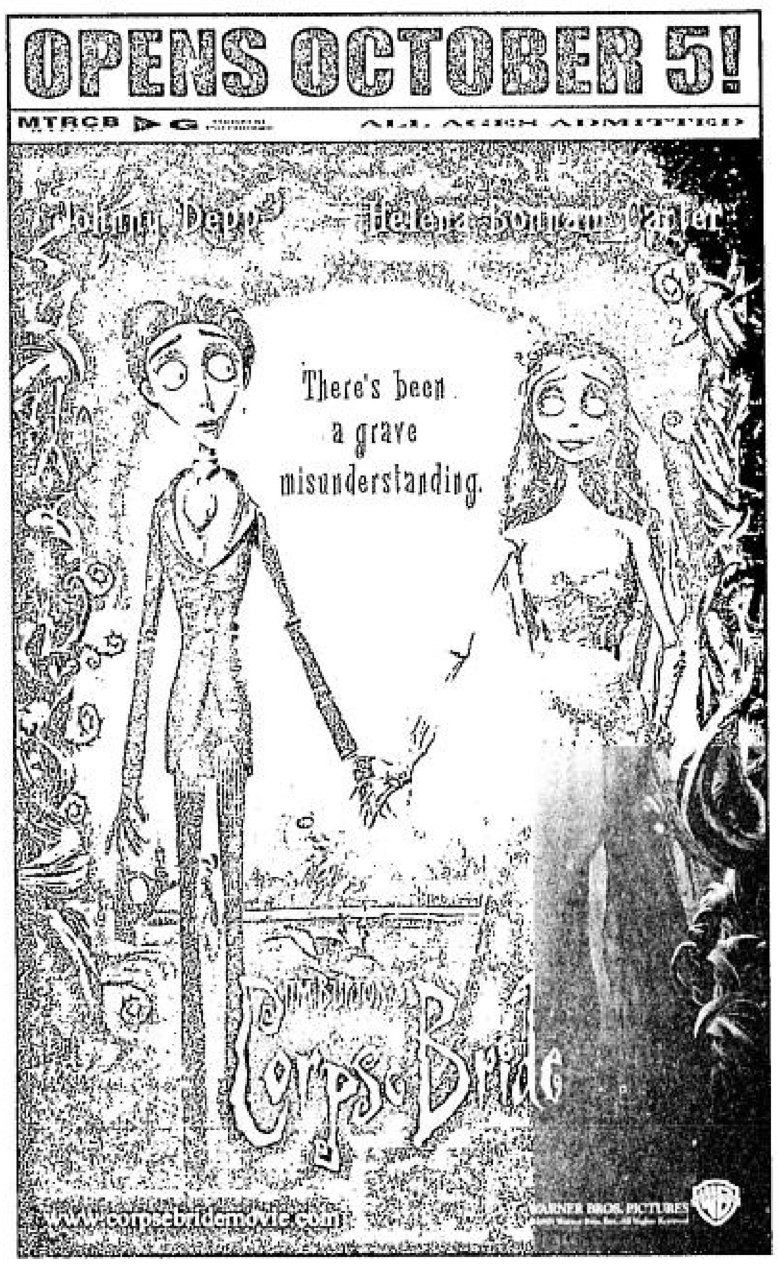
JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SAFE TO GO BACK IN THE CAVE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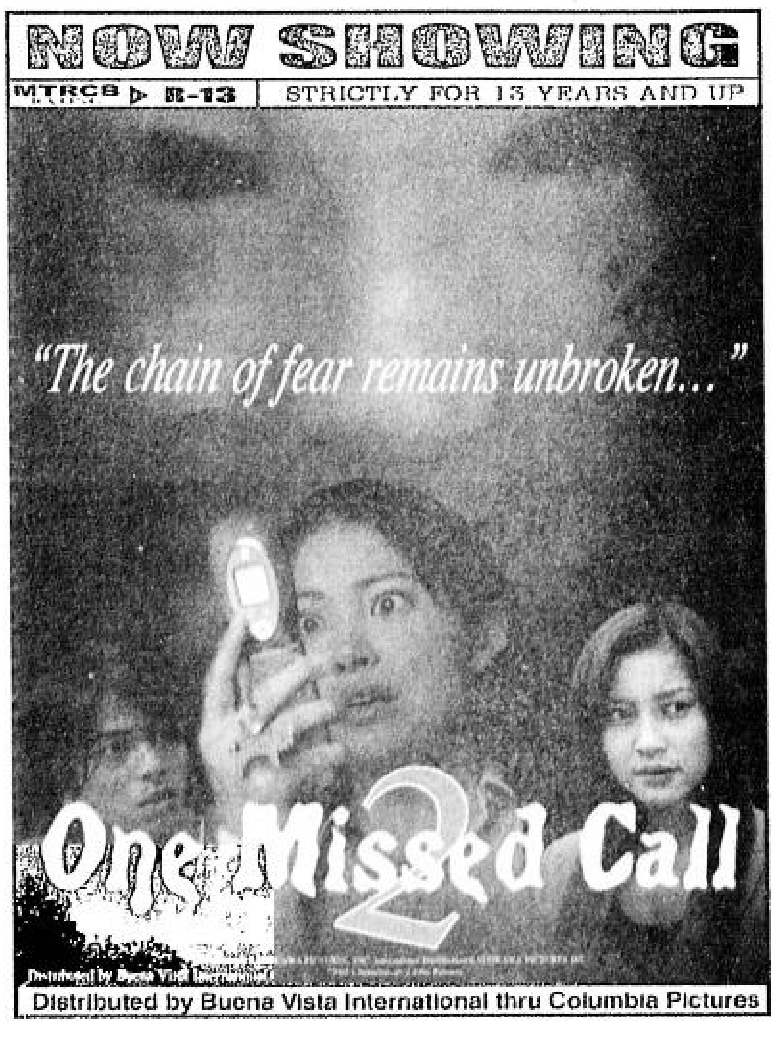
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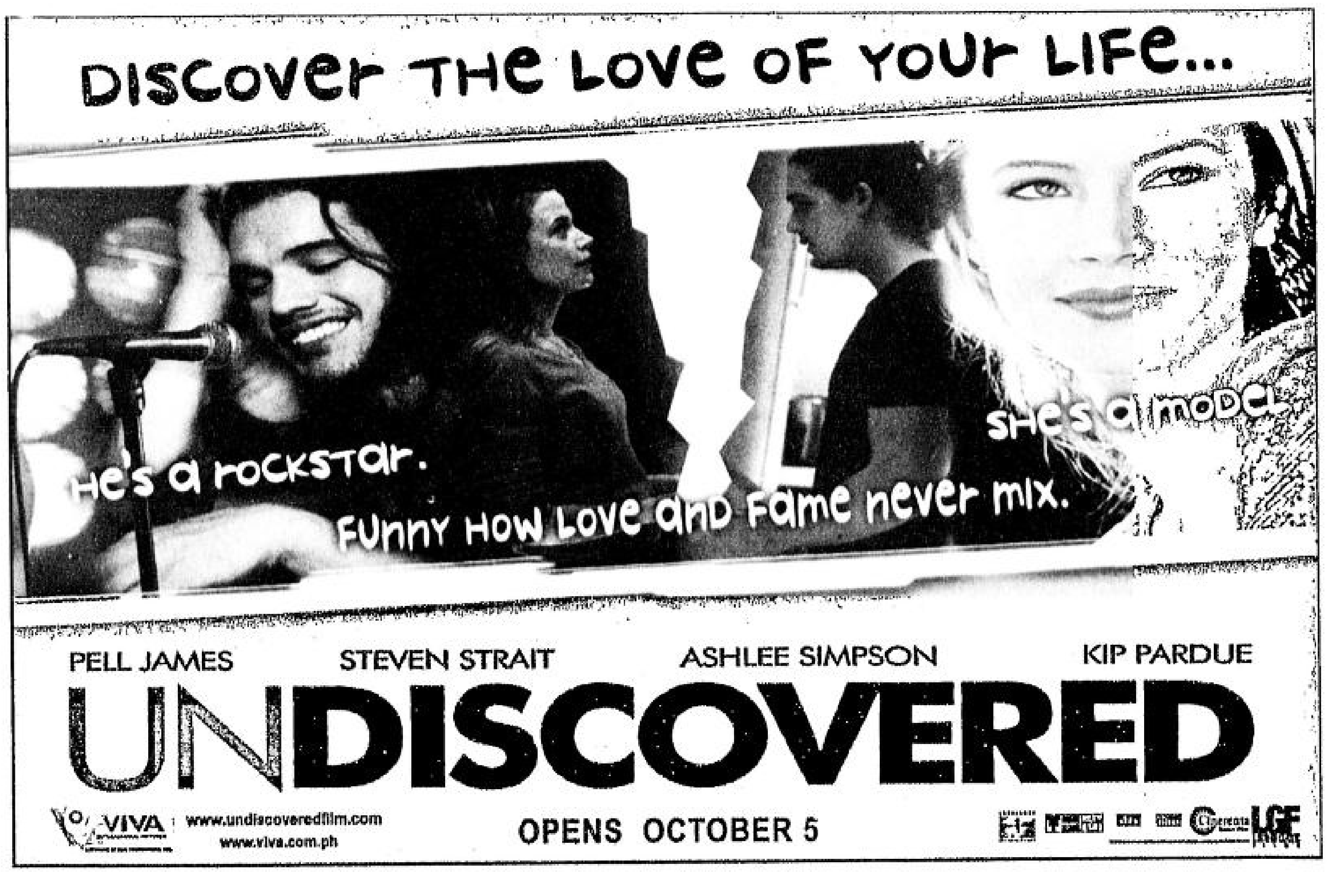
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OPENS OCTOBER 5

All set for Nat'l Milo Marathon

MILO Marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho (center) meets with the agencies in charge of security and traffic from the PNP and the MMDA recently to map out plans for the coming 42K finale. Among those who attended were, from left, seated, police Senior Insp. Arwin Nacional, Senior Insp. Karen Cayagay, Chief Insp. Ram Haveria, Senior Insp. Estela M. Lomat, Supt. JV Bantigue and Senior Insp. Gilbert Loteria.

AFTER 13 GRUELLING Regional elimination stages, the 29th National Milo Marathon gears up for a grand finale this Sunday, Oct. 9, at the Quirino Grandstand with more than P700,000 in cash prizes at stake.

The centerpiece event is the 42.195-km race featuring 250 qualifiers vying for the crown and the P75,000 top purse for the men's and women's champion.

The second placers in both divisions will receive P50,000, while the third placers get P30,000.

The top three finishers of this foot race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar will also bring home elegant glass trophies.

Milo national race organizer Rudy Biscocho announced that qualifiers still need to sign up for the race for them to claim their Adidas running uniforms.

The 10K winners will win P10,000 while the champions in the 5K fun run will take home P2,500 each. The age-group champions in the Kiddies 3K event will pocket P1,500 each.

Cash prizes totaling P46,000 are also at stake in the cheering competition and the biggest delegation contest, while P12,000 will be awarded to the winners of the interschool running competition.

The race is also supported by the Manila Sports Council, headed by Mayor Lito Atienza's son, Ali, as well as by the city governments of Pasay, Parañaque, Makati and Taguig.

Biscocho thanked the Philippine National Police, MMDA, PNRC, PCSM and Spectrum Communications for their support.

Milo Sports Events executive Pat Goc Ong said registration ends on Wednesday.

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2 (DOLBY) PERFECT CATCH GP
3 (DOLBY) DUBAI PG13
4 (DOLBY) TRANSPORTER 2 PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) PERFECT MAN GP

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
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1 THE TRANSPORTER-2
2 THE DESCENT
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD

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2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) THE DESCENT
6 DUBAI

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1 (DOLBY) GHOST HOUSE
2

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1 (DTS) DUBAI
2 (SDDS) DARK WATER
3 (DTS) THE DESCENT
4 (GOLD DTS) PERFECT MAN
5 (GOLD DOLBY) DUBAI
6 (GOLD SDDS) LAND OF THE DEAD
7 (GOLD DOLBY) THE TRANSPORTER-2
8 (DOLBY 5 SPEC) ONE MISSED CALL
9 (DOLBY 5 SPEC) BLADE OF THE ROSE
10 (DOLBY 5 SPEC) LOVE STRUCK

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
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2 (DOLBY) THE DESCENT
3 (DOLBY) THE TRANSPORTER-2
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2 THE DESCENT
3 RESERVED
4 THE TRANSPORTER-2
5 AGOS

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2 CONSTANT GARDENER
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 NENA INOSENTE

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2 DARK WATER
3 (DTS EX) SOUND OF THUNDER
4 LOVE STRUCK

Cine Nepo
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1 DUBAI
2 DUBAI
3 (DOLBY) DARK WATER
4 (DTS) SOUND OF THUNDER

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2 DUBAI
3 (DOLBY) THE CAVE
4 (DTS) RED EYE

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2 (DOLBY) DUBAI
3 (DOLBY) TRANSPORTER 2
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2 DUBAI
3 (DOLBY) DUBAI

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2 AGOS
3 IKA PITONG GLORIA
4 (DTS) LITTLE SHAOLIN

Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY) DARK WATER
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DTS) DUBAI
4 AGOS
5 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

Fiesta World Mall
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2 DUBAI
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 DUBAI

Berma Cinema
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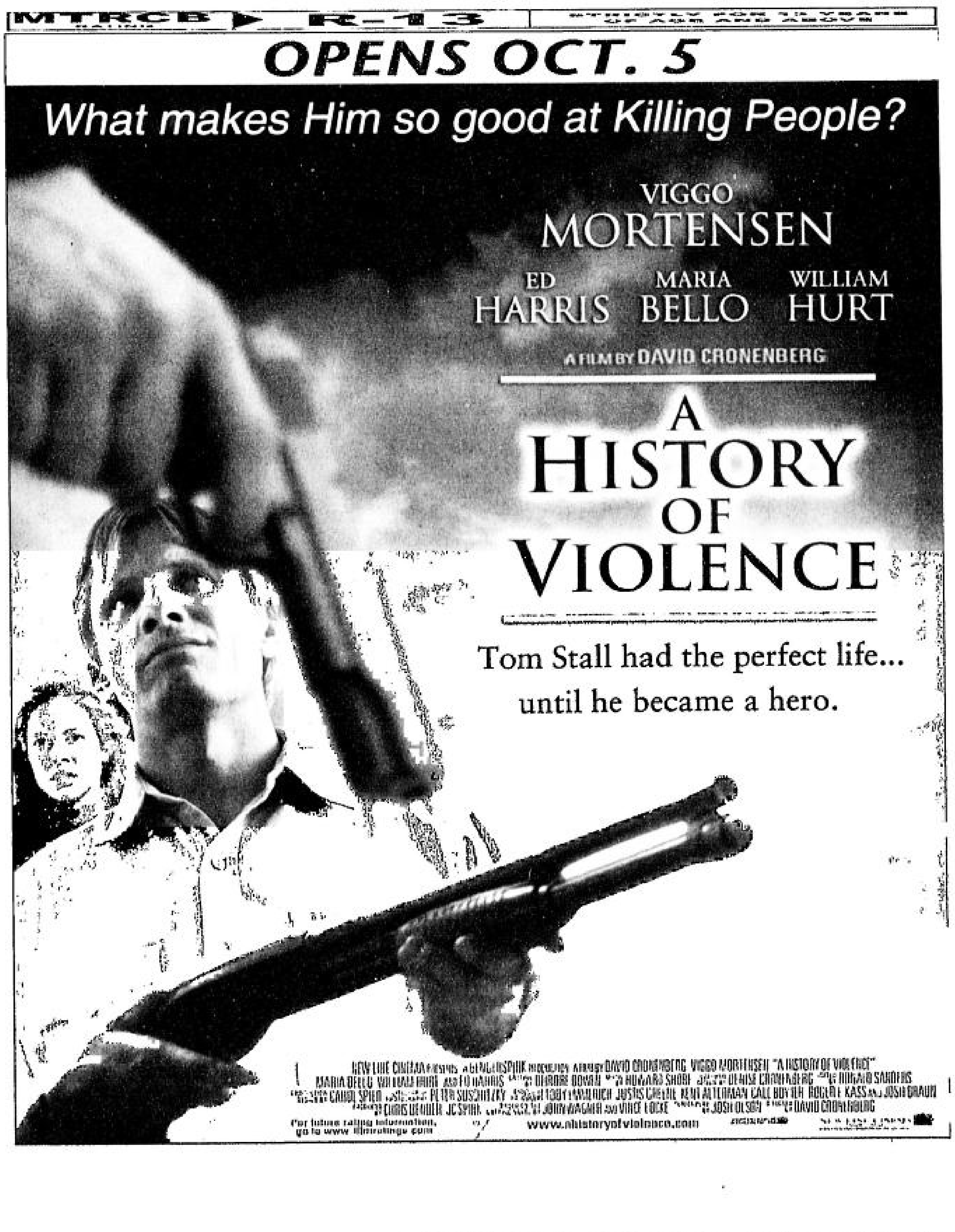
MTRCB RATING R-13
OPENS OCT. 5
What makes Him so good at Killing People?
VIGGO MORTENSEN
ED HARRIS
MARIA BELLO
WILLIAM HURT
A FILM BY DAVID CRONENBERG
A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
Tom Stall had the perfect life... until he became a hero.
www.ahistoryofviolence.com

Top Navy tandem leads beach volley opening winners

PHILIPPINE NAVY'S MICHELLE LABORTE and Cecille Tabuena lived up to their billing as the team to beat after drubbing co-champions Rolyn Marquicias and Sheryl Laborte at the start of the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament finals at the Manila Baywalk yesterday.

In what could be a preview of the championship, the Navy stalwarts stamped their class over the Marquicias-Laborte tandem, pulling off a thrilling 21-16 victory to jump-start their campaign in the fourth and final leg of the series.

And in what turned out to be the opening day's most thrilling encounter, Lorna dela Cruz and Charizza Castro edged Raine Romero and Eliza Natividad, 22-20, even as the PSBA-Ateneo duo of Shery Garcia and Patricia Taganas dumped Asian College of Science and Technology's Sheena Teves and Benecio Venus, 21-11.

In another close encounter, first-leg winner Patricia Siatan and Glenda Pintol lost to Suzanne Roces and Abigail Escanor, 19-21.

The 10-team field was divided into two groups, with the top two pairs in each division advancing to the crossover semifinals.

"We almost lost control when we made those unforced errors, but we're glad we regained our focus in the endgame," said the stocky Laborte in Filipino.

The beach volley fiesta sponsored by Petron and organized by Tisha Abundo, in cooperation with the Manila Sports Council, is also backed by Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Toyota Pasong Tamo, Villa de Oro, Acsat, Speedo (official outfitter) and Mikasa (official ball).

DIANA Ross Distajo stretches to return a spike in yesterday's action. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Salazar nine captures Cebu Slo-Pitch title

THE MULTITITLED SALAZAR COLLEGES of Science and Institute of Technology (SCSIT) whipped Berns Ang, 16-1, to win the first Cebuana Lhuillier Slo-Pitch Challenge title at the Cebu International School grounds recently.

SCSIT raced to a 3-0 lead after three innings then came up with five runs each in the fifth and sixth frames to complete the rout. Berns Ang scored its lone run in the seventh and final inning.

Mandaue City outclassed the Cebu Flag Football League batters, 10-5, to take third place.

Sponsored by Cebuana Lhuillier, the tournament was the first slo-pitch event held outside Metro Manila.

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RP billiards team top pick in SEAG

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE WORST AND THE BEST TIMES for Philippine billiards.

The battle-tested Filipinos started the year by losing at the 2005 World Pool Championship in Kaohsiung last July, then winning in style in the recent 30th US 9-Ball Open at Chesapeake, Virginia.

Fil-Canadian Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan sparked the country's 1-2-3 finish at the US Open by beating countryman Jose "Amang" Parica in the finals, 11-6, and pocketing the first prize money of $40,000 (about P2.240 million).

Earlier, Francisco "Django" Bustamante completed the RP sweep by whipping old rival Earl "The Pearl" Strickland in their duel for third, 11-4, to earn $10,000.

With the victory, Pagulayan became only the second non-American winner of the US Open since 1994 when Efren "Bata" Reyes first accomplished the feat.

The US Open was founded by American Behrman 30 years ago in Norfolk, Virginia. It started on three tables in the rear of a one-room pool hall. The initial tournament was a huge success, but it created some problems because the pool room, which was filled to capacity, could accommodate only 150 people. Behrman transferred the US Open to a bigger venue, with enough space for parking to boot.

In praise of Behrman, Michael Frank, a University of Maryland professor and a US Open aficionado, wrote: "Through his vision and considerable efforts, he has built a tournament that brings out the best in our society—a venture that provides a forum for fan value, employment opportunity and continued growth and prosperity."

Although Pagulayan, who is based in Canada, seldom plays here, he is still admired by many Filipinos not only because of his skills at the pool table but also because of his love for the Philippines.

"I'm proud to be a Filipino," he said after winning the World Pool Championship in Taipei in 2004. Pagulayan was born 26 years ago in Cabagan, Isabela.

Pagulayan lost his Philippine citizenship several years ago when his parents migrated to Canada. But he reacquired this under the dual citizenship law which Congress enacted in 2003.

His presence in the Philippine team, including this year's Southeast Asian Games, will surely boost the country's chances to win gold medals. With Pagulayan around, one always gets total commitment, although at times he appears to take it easy. But don't be deceived. The 5-foot-3 Pagulayan is a ruthless player who is always good to watch because of his booming breaks and creativity.

For this year's SEA Games, Pagulayan will join the national team composed of Reyes, Bustamante, Gandy Valle, Rodolfo Luat, Ronnie Alcano, Lee Van Corteza, Antonio Gabica, Marlon Manalo and Antonio Lining and/or Warren Kiamco, the other half of the defending 9-ball doubles champion tandem with Corteza.

Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines president Ernesto Fajardo said: "We're fielding the best players, that's why I'm confident that we'll be able to win a lot of gold medals in this year's Southeast Asian Games."

Billiards godfather and BSCP director Aristeo "Putch" Puyat stressed that the board decided it would be best to let the players select the team members themselves based on the results of tournaments where the Filipinos competed.

BSCP chair Yen Macabenta said Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia could pull some surprises in the SEA Games. He added that the country can't just ignore the Southeast Asian entries. Mohamad Nuharto of Indonesia won the gold medal in the Vietnam SEAG two years ago when Reyes and Bustamante lost their bid for the 9-ball gold.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Monday, October 3, 2005

Laura Jean
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ABC

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Dial M		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Winner TV Shopping		TNA Impact		Sentro	Friends	Guinness Book Of Record		Fear Factor		Big News	Look Who's Talking		Billboard On-Air	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	My Sassy Girl	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Ambush Makeover		Medium		Cold Case		Newswatch Now	Simple Life 2	Cerge For Truth	
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Global Family Series		ME TV		Basketball Show		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Global Family Series	GMA The Working President
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Friends Again	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	America's Next Top Model	Tru Calling		Charmed		News Central	The Next Joe Millionaire		Travel Time
MTV Philippines	Spring Break	MTV Urban Beats	MTV Pop Inc		Wade Robson	Hanging Out At MTV	MTV Get Spotted	TRL		Massive	MTV Play	Diyos		Rockola	MTV Jams	The 70's House	Laguna Beach	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		OPM MYX Countdown		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
Solar Sports													Sports Desk						
Sports Plus					Inside the PGA	Ultimate Fighting Championship				NFL 2005						Chrysler Classic of Greensboro Final Round			
Cinemax	The Great Race					Above Suspicion (5.15 PM)				Simone				Necessary Roughness			The Skulls III (10.45PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Wife Swap		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Mysterious Way		Wife Swap		Back When We Were Grown Ups			Regenesis (10.35PM)		Mysterious Way (11.25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Body Work		Impossible Heists		Wild Science		Warrior Island II		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Massacre In Madrid		Colour Of War III	
National Geographic		Built For The Kill		Planet Wild		Wild!		Dogs With Jobs	Toyota World Of Wildlife	Wow!		About Asia		Megacities Week		Built For The Kill		Planet Wild Series 3	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Pet Alien	Atomic Betty	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	What's New Scooby Doo?	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Pet Alien	Atomic Betty
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	As Told By Ginger		All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	101 Best Kept Hollywood Secrets		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Fine Living Special		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Married To The Kellys	Still Standing/ Everybody Loves Raymond	Yes Dear	Becker	Wonderfalls		Friends	Married To The Kellys
AXN		Next Action Star		Worst Case Scenario		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	Alias (Season III)		The Contender		Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	Fear Factor (Season V)			Lost		Lost	
JackTV		South Park	Street Smarts	Wwe Heat		WWE Velocity		Cheat	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Sweet Spot	Comedy Central Presents	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Blue Collar TV	Banzai	Joe Schmo Show	
ETC		Complete Savages	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Friends	Will & Grace	The O.C.		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		ET Weekend		For Love Or Money	
HBO			Blood Blues (3.45 PM)				Open Season			Changing Lanes (7.15 PM)				The Perfect Score			Tango & Cash (10.35PM)		
Star Movies	Cave In (2:25PM)			Pit Fighter			Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story				Heart Of The Storm (7.25 PM)			Hollow Man				Riding In Cars With Boys	
Cinema One		Ay, Ay Naku Neneng				Saan Ka Man Naroroon (Movie)				Di Ko Kayang Tanggapin				Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang				Burlesk Queen Ngayon	
EWTN	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Angelus (3.15 PM)	Benediction And Devotion Encore	Faith Factory A	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Threshold Of Hope Encore		Sunday Night Live With Fr. Groeschel		Daily Mass		Angelus (9.15 PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	St. Matthew Evangelist Of The Church	Getting God's Help	Catholic Compass	

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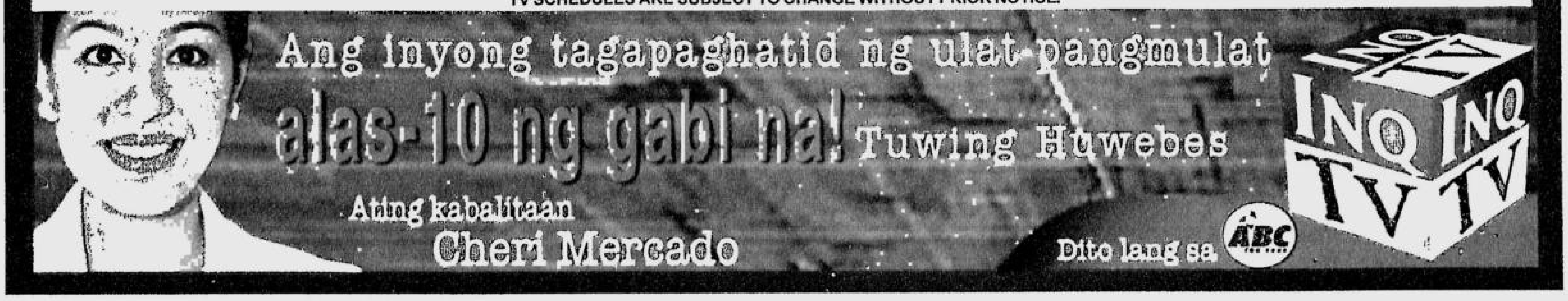

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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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DUNKIN' DONUTS
Slabsters

'Rock Star' aftermath

- MiG sets visit to Manila 'soon' to meet Filipino supporters
- Marty's band, Lovehammers, will move to LA from Chicago
- Peter Frampton says he loved MiG's 'Baby, I Love Your Way'
- Lovehammers joining INXS' world tour, with Marty's 'Trees'

By Fran Katigbak

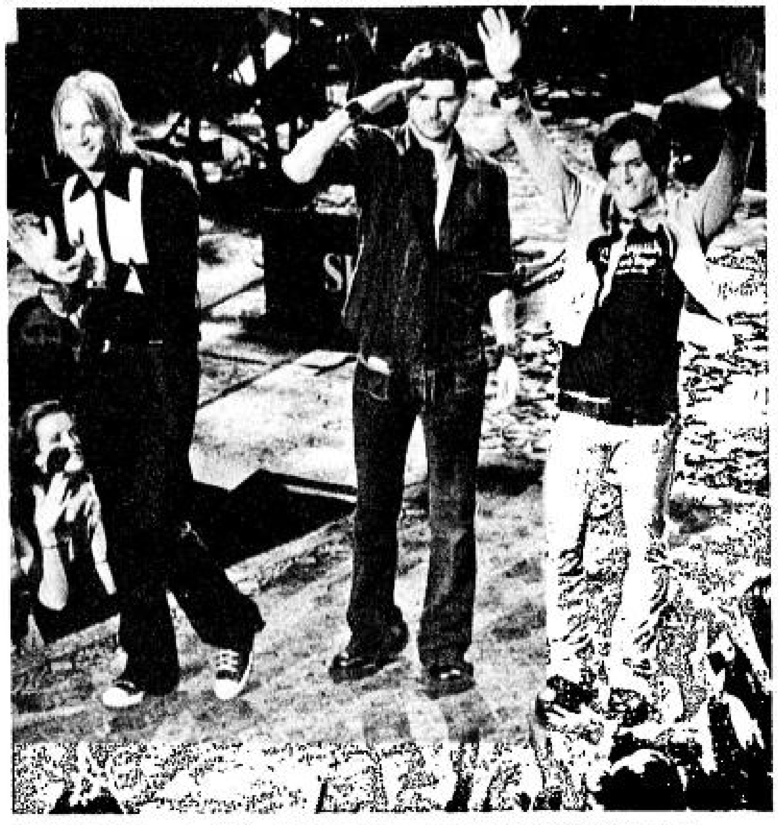
SEEMS new INXS lead singer JD Fortune is not the only lucky guy to emerge from "Rock Star: INXS."

Barely two weeks after the finale, runners-up Marty Casey and MiG Ayesa have also begun to reap the rewards of their success from the reality show created to find a front man for the Aussie band.

Marty Casey and his band, the Lovehammers, have been invited to front-act for INXS on a world tour.

"I was bombed," said Marty, describing in a teleconference how he took INXS' choice for lead singer (JD) as announced during the fi-

ROCK/ A2-2



THE TOP three in "Star World's" top reality show last summer.

Paris-Paris disengage

CHEER FACTOR

LOS ANGELES—PARIS HILTON WILL NOT be adding "shipping heiress" to her resume.

The "celebutante"-turned-model has ended her five-month engagement to Greek shipping heir Paris Latsis, Us Weekly reported, quoting a statement it said Hilton released to the magazine.

"I'm sad to announce that I've called off my engagement. We remain best of friends, and I'll always love him. I hope people will respect my privacy during this emotional time," Hilton told the magazine.

Hilton, 24 and Latsis, 22, became engaged in the spring.

Latsis gave the 24-year-old hotel heiress a 24-carat, $5 million diamond engagement ring. It was not immediately clear what would happen to the ring. AP

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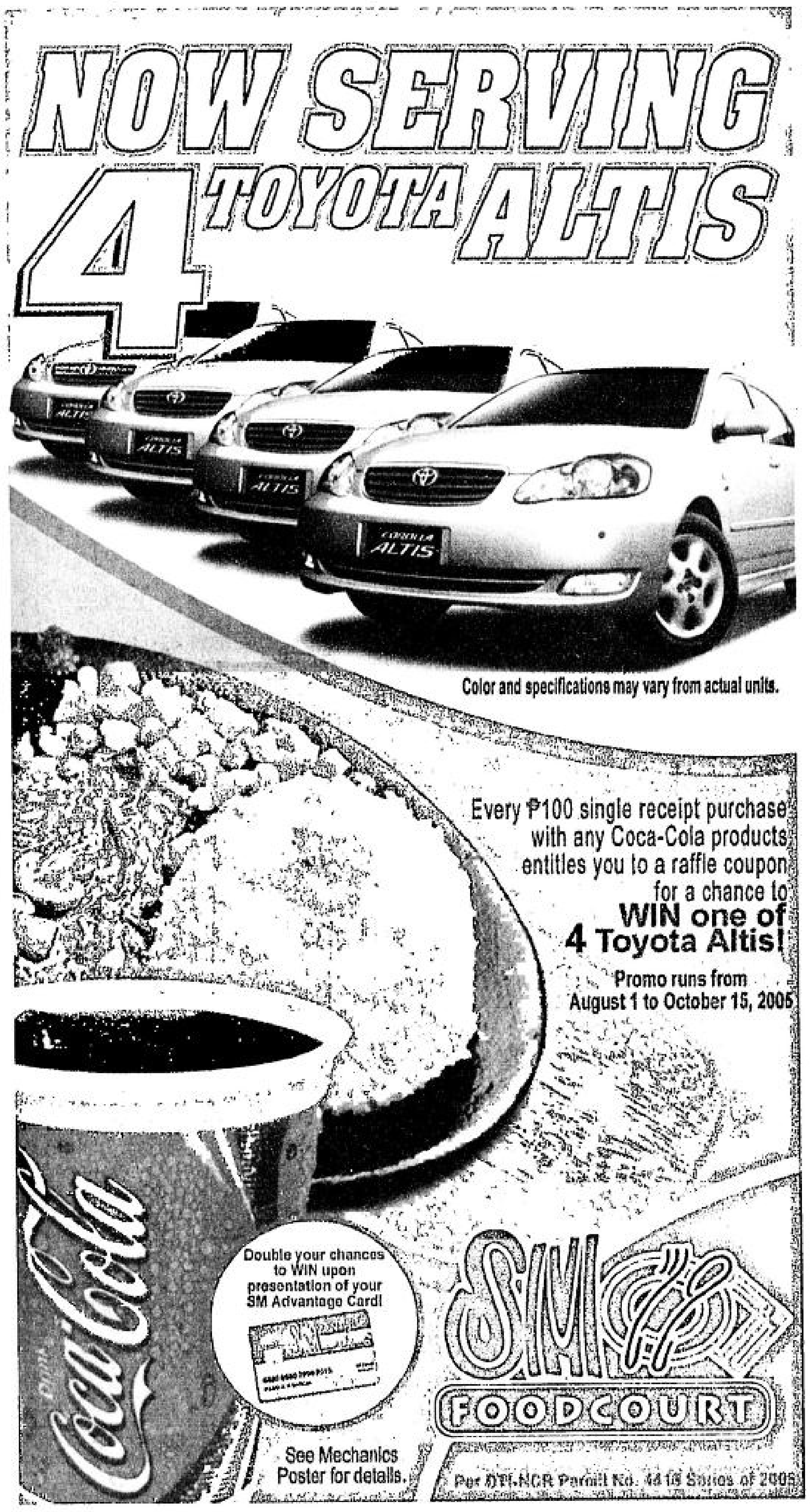

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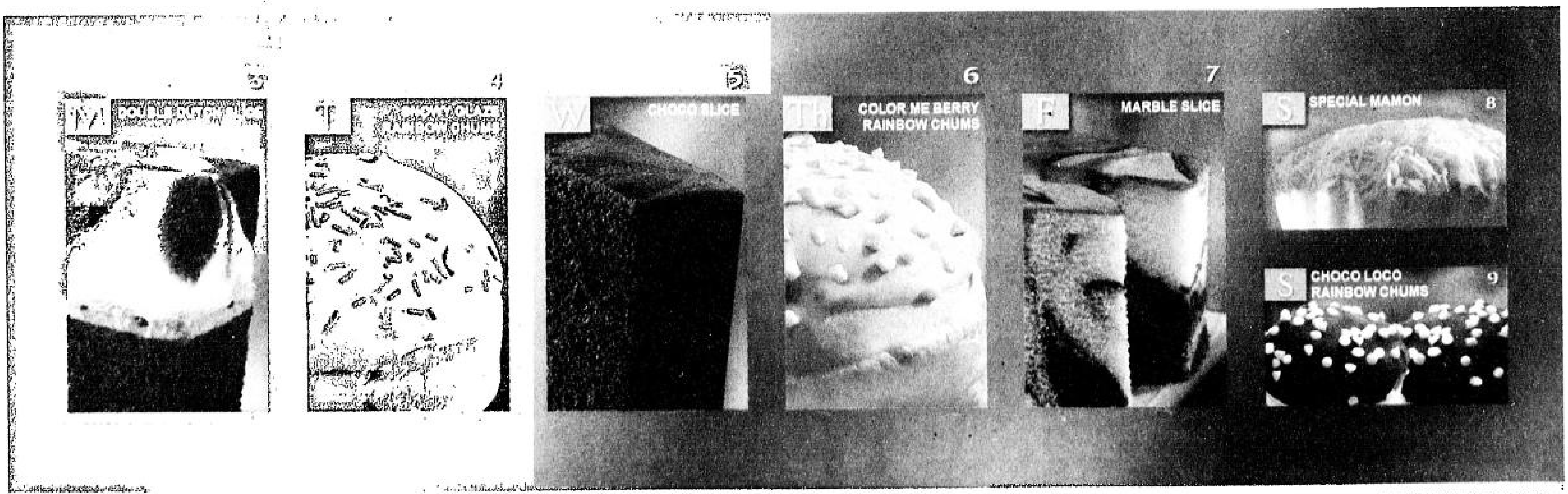

Magbitbit-baon ngayong buwan!

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Most TV talent searches are simply starmaking vehicles in disguise

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LOCAL TV now features many talent searches and competitions—"Star in a Million," "Pinoy Pop Superstar," "Starstruck," "Star Circle Quest," etc. How effective have they been in developing outstanding new stars?

We've followed the careers of some of their past winners, and can share these hopefully instructive observations:

Clearly, the singing competitions have created popular stars like **Sarah Geronimo** and **Sheryn Regis**, so they have achieved their objective. However, these new stars are quickly sucked into the *birit* syndrome that has the local music biz in its thrall, so few original artists are emerging.

Instead, what we're getting are many cookie-cutter, xerox-style performers with little that's really new to offer.

Worse, quite a number of these new singers are made to act, or host shows. **Mark Bautista** was a dud in the superhero flick he starred in, and **Erik Santos** is an uncharismatic host on this year's "Star in a Million" contest.

These young talents are made to believe that all they need to know in order to host a TV show is .read the spiels written for them. Wrong!—no wonder they do so poorly on TV.

As for the non-singing young stars spawned by the other talent searches, it's really ironic that, while the tilts are unreeling on TV, they are subjected to so many thespic tests, but after they win, it turns out that they're being required to do nothing more demanding than just the usual *pa*-cute teen idol shtick.

The biggest successes to date in this regard have been **Sandara Park** and **Hero Angeles**. They did well in the anthology movie they co-starred in, but their careers have since been put on hold as Sandara spends much of her time in South Korea, and Hero and/or his handlers have rubbed producers the wrong way.

Even when they were busy, however, the two teen faves didn't do much that was particularly remarkable, or even just different. So, what was all that rigorous "training" for?

Given these perceived parameters, we now see that, contrary to their pious declarations and exhaustive "development" processes, most TV talent searches are simply star-making vehicles in disguise.

In the past, young stars were discovered and built up by studios in annual batches, with rather iffy results in terms of actual star value generated. The TV talent searches have been more reliably productive in this regard, which is why everybody is doing it.

TV talent tilts are effective starmakers because they provide unknowns valuable television exposure that quickly makes them familiar faces to millions of viewers.

So, instead of subjecting finalists to so many rigorous challenges to develop talents that aren't really needed in their eventual careers, the searches should concentrate on the basic performing skills and charisma factors that really count.

'Duma'

"DUMA," starring **Campbell Scott** and **Hope Davis**, is now on DVD/VCD. It tells the story of a 12-year-old boy who decides to return to the wilds the cheetah he's raised, instead of allowing its pursuers to rear it in captivity.

His resolve is tested by the harsh South African landscape, stalking lions, crocodiles, river rapids and a mysterious drifter. The DVD release of "Duma" is accompanied by some deleted scenes and the production's theatrical trailer.

Nyoy Volante

NYOY Volante is top-billing a 10-night performance series at Blackbeard's Seafood Island at Market Market. The acoustic performances are available to diners at no additional cost. Call 886-7692 for the schedule. The shows are being staged at the seafood restaurant's outdoor dining area, where a state-of-the-art sound system has been installed.

Weekend celebrations

GATHER family and friends for a weekend get-together at Richmonde Hotel's Richmonde Grill, why don't you? Every party of 10 gets a cake and one round of iced tea on the house, and there are similarly attractive packages for bigger groups. Call 638-7777 local 3409 for details.

'KNN' on 'Sentro'

"KABATAAN News Network," the only local TV program with young newsmen at the helm, now has a "Boses ng Kabataan" segment every Friday on "Sentro," ABC-5's early-evening newscast. "KNN" is a project of Probe Media Foundation and Unicef Philippines.

Robert and Isay at Merk's

LAST Thursday, **Robert Seña** and **Isay Alvarez** launched their weekly performance series at Merk's at Greenhills 3. Their show about the vagaries of love wowed the opening-night crowd. Catch Robert and Isay in delightful musical partnership at Merk's this Thursday, why don't you?

---

5 hot bands!

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

HOW GOOD is the music of today's hottest local bands? The answers, in random order:

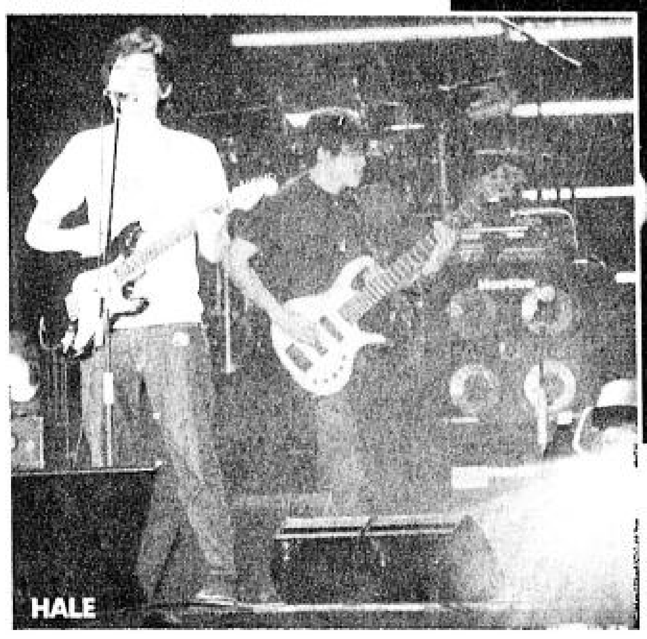
Bamboo's "LightPeaceLove" (EMI), the 10-track follow-up to the band's well-received debut ("As the Music Plays"), is basking in the strength of "Hallelujah," another rousing paean that emulates the positive vibes of "Noypi." Has singer-songwriter Bamboo Mañalac's penchant for soul-stirring sentiments and the intense chops of guitarist Ira Cruz, bassist Nathan Azarcon and drummer Vic Mercado turned the band into a musical torchbearer of flickering Pinoy self-esteem? "Hallelujah" aside, the album is a journey to self-discovery via the criss-crossing roads of human relationships. Whether it's about friends, lovers and mothers, the songs in "LightPeaceLove" are made interesting with beat poetry-style musings and jazz/classical interludes. They somehow lead to one's understanding and acceptance that life sucks—but is still worth living.

Surefire recipe

Cueshe is fast becoming a byword with "Stay," the banner cut from its debut CD "Half Empty, Half Full" (BMG). It brims with the recipe of a surefire hit: the pain and sorrow of lost love set against a rock ballad tempo. The rest of the songs would easily endear themselves to suckers for pop-rock hooks and easy-recall lines (e.g., "If I can turn back the time/I'll spend it with you" or "*Tanging hiling ko lang sa yo, na tuwing umuulan/Maalala mo sana na may nagmamahal sa 'yo*"). Just ignore the nagging thought that Cueshe (pronounced "q-shay") is predisposed to lyrical clichés. Whether or not drummer/chief lyricist Mike Manaloto is aware of his grammatical weakness is beside the point. What's worth exploring is the room for improvement that this band from Cebu could undertake in future recordings. Imagine the possibility of leaving those gushing female fans breathless—not so much for the matinee idol looks of Cueshe's two frontmen, but for its power to articulate feelings through exceptional songwriting.

Hale is apparently the band of the moment, having conquered the airwaves with the current sad-ballad favorite, "The Day You Said Goodnight." Remarkable is the attempt to have literary quality in most of the 11 tracks on its self-titled debut (EMI), proof that local artists could write better songs than some of their foreign counterparts. But whether or not Hale's knack for imagery and metaphor was born of a natural sensitivity, is again beside the point. What matters perhaps is the ability of vocalist Champ Lui-Pio, guitarist Roll Martinez,

BAMBO



HALE

CUESHE

SOAPDISH

'Transporter 2' an empty but fun stu

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

IT REALLY doesn't matter if you missed the first "Transporter," the film that sort of established Jason Statham as something of a European Bruce Willis. He continues to radiate the manly man in the self-contained sequel, a fun but empty stunt showcase that relies heavily on its capacity to overload viewers' senses.

Yes, it's one of those testosterone-y Hollywood flicks riddled with some of the most used visual cliches ever. For instance, his character, ex-merc Frank Martin, is being threatened by cocky carjackers at a parking lot. We all know that they are sooo getting beat up. He also walks away in slow motion from a crash site in another scene—while vehicles burn in the background. He rarely runs while chasing a sprinting bad guy, which is supposed to show that he's calm and collected. There are many other repetitive examples in the vein of tried-and-tired Schwarzenneger time-killers.

Through it all, Statham's character remains the epitome of cool, a gentlemanly martial arts expert in a suit who effortlessly trounces villain wannabes! Aided by his super-snazzy Batmobile-like Audi A8, he's acclimated to his month-old job as a driver for an affluent couple's 5-year old son (Hunter Clary). Things get expectedly messy when cardboard crooks target the boy for a half-baked terror plot, which allows Frank to revert into the take-no-prisoners, one-man rescue squad. OK.

Some of the scenes that stand out are the ones when the usually-unarmed Frank is forced to improvise by quickly turning nearby objects into weapons (the coconut boxing gloves were a stretch, but that gimmick was good for a giggle). His fight scenes with a femme fatale assassin, Lola (Kate Nauta), are memorable too, not only because she's the custom-made sexual tension-inspiring character, but also because the ultra-violent terminatrix looks really annoying and tailor-made for the recycled story.

It's really a straightforward, unchallenging action movie; the kidnapping drama isn't emphasized as much as the elaborate car chases, bone-breaking scuffles, or Frank's uncanny ability to dodge bullets. The glaring color palettes look forced sometimes, and the compositions look
they work. E
the acrobatic
eyes hurt. It's
was loudly b
the-top blood
That's just biz

SUPER macho lead is never distracted, not even by a wom

'Rock Star' aftermath—the shape of the future for Marty and MiG

MARTY Casey, JD Fortune and MiG Ayesa hang on to the jurors' words in the final leg of the competition.

nals. "I thought 100 percent I'd win it. I performed really well with INXS and there was a lot of creative energy between me and Andrew Farriss."

But Marty's perspective changed when he was offered the front act deal: "I felt like the universe gave me exactly what I needed at that moment. It was the perfect ending."

The Chicago-based rocker had just celebrated his 32nd birthday with the other rockers who were still in California. He said he was writing new material with an LA composer.

Following negotiations with a record label, Marty said the Lovehammers were set to move to LA, where they want to record and be around people they want to work with. "We're going to be writing [songs and] rehearsing, rehearsing, rehearsing for the tour," he added.

Among the numbers they're polishing for the big gig is his pop-rock composition, "Trees," which debuted on "Rock Star." Marty said the song also had "to get out there soon" as a single. "We (the Lovehammers) just need to solidify the version we want to release."

'Kiss and whatever'

He thanked INXS for giving him and his band the chance "to prove that we have some talent. I really appreciate the support. Just the fact that [they cared] about the guy who took second place means a lot to me."

Filipino-Australian MiG Ayesa said he was visiting the Philippines soon to thank all the people here who voted for him every week during the whole series.

"I'm going to be there to shake their hands and kiss and whatever," said the rocker who expressed relief when the competition was over. "I'm very happy with the results. I made it to the finals, achieved everything I wanted to achieve and didn't have to become anyone other than myself. I'm proud to have maintained my integrity and dignity. At the same time... I won a Honda!"

MiG said he was not bothered that Marty was asked to join the INXS world tour. He explained: "Marty has the Lovehammers, who are ready to go [on tour], whereas I am working on a new direction with my music and that will take a little bit longer."

He said the new album he was putting together would have more funk-rock with some piano work—a departure from the projects of his London-based experimental band, MiGnition, "which is quite rock-specific." In fact, he said, he would like to include in his new collection several arrangements that he did while staying at the "Rock Star" contenders' LA mansion.

One example is his version of "Baby I Love Your Way" which, according to MiG, "went down very, very well. Peter Frampton himself called me to say how much he loved
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bassist Sheldon Gellada and drummer Omnie Sarota to sustain interest by speaking directly as friends—buddies who sympathize with listeners who have gone through the frustrations of breakups or unrequited love.

Soapdish admittedly owes a lot of its melodic, head-swaying music to the Foo Fighters. But Dave Grohl probably won't mind that Soapdish singer/songwriter/rhythm guitar player Jeff Bolivar, with lead guitarist Terence Teves, bassist Cesar Bendoy and drummer Kurt Floresca, succeed in creating new stuff out of borrowed grooves. On the band's self-titled debut (Neo Records) are 12 tracks that refresh one's mood on any time of day. The songs are light without being fluffy, accessible minus the corny excesses associated with pop. Soapdish rocks in a cheerful manner and in a number of cuts, there emerges a protagonist whose juvenile persona survives the troubles of romance, is resigned to fate, but maintains a positive outlook: "*Alam kong hindi pupwedeng maging tayo/Pero minsan nag-iiba ang ikot ng mundo...*" So far, the several thousands who've bought the CD would agree that the songs of Soapdish ought to be sung outside the shower.

No mean feat

For Parokya Ni Edgar (PNE) to have sold 600,000 units from eight albums is no mean feat in this country, which makes the band deserving of its "Pambansang Banda ng Pilipinas" tag. From its earliest gigs at the defunct 100-seater Club Dredd to its recent big league show at the 15,000-capacity Araneta Coliseum, PNE has never taken itself seriously and that's what makes it hot. This group thrives on Pinoy college kid humor—an element kept intact on its latest release, "Halina sa Parokya" (Universal). At times, the comic asides may sound risqué for younger kids' consumption (like watching porn in "Walang Nangyari" and references to Peter North in "Papa Cologne"), but then again it's all done in the spirit of fun. Yet there are sobering takes on teenage pregnancy ("Telepono") and generous ear-splitting romps that would please hip hop and hard rock fans. The happy horde of sweating, slam-dancing *jolog* fans all clad in black at the band's free concert at the Big Dome couldn't complain, even when their musical idols were there to promote deodorant with "First Day Funk."

nt fest

much·too slick, but somehow, erything's stylized anyway, and camera work can make your just puzzling that the "f" word eped out, when all that over- etting was all over the place. rre.

an in see-thru killing gear.

From page A2-1

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hing definite at the mo- -old·artist admitted. But a meeting with a major w York had been set.

izy as far as the future is I didn't win]," MiG said. e got good people behind pport."

us

was "getting a lot of noto- d, laughing. "Every time I reet, people stop or pull nd say, 'You were robbed!

MiG sang "Star Spangled alibu triathlon where he porters.

ople there from 'Desper- nd 'CSI,' none of whom I were all competing," MiG vie stars but, as I walked I, everyone was screaming like, 'Dude, don't look at anding beside you—Em- rd-winning stars!"

ne thing MiG felt really ile he was on "Rock Star," g Filipino.

aking an impact on the in- scene," he pointed out. be a part of that push."

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MTRCB PG-13
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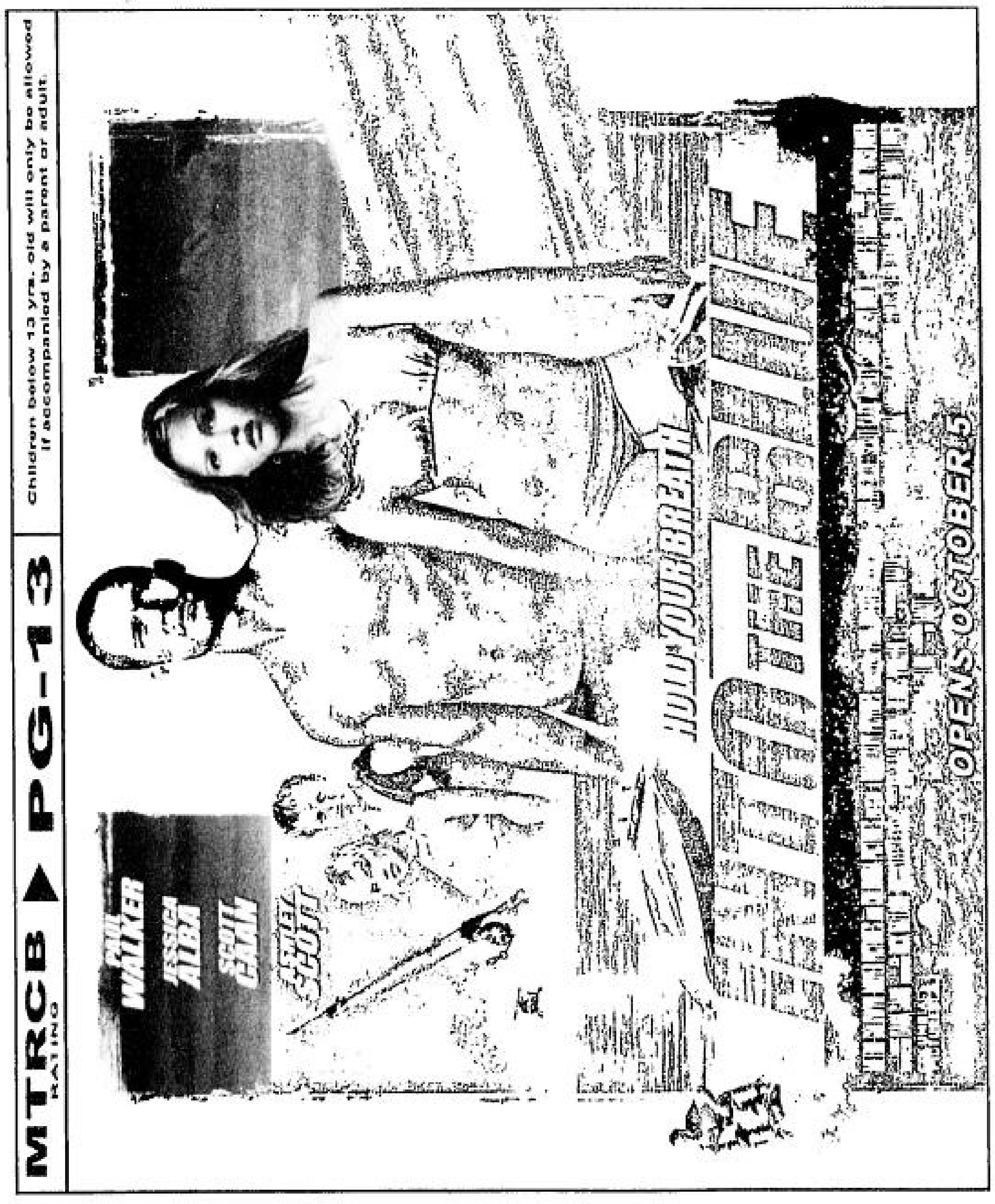
DUBAI PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	THE DESCENT R18 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10	TRANSPORTER 2 PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15



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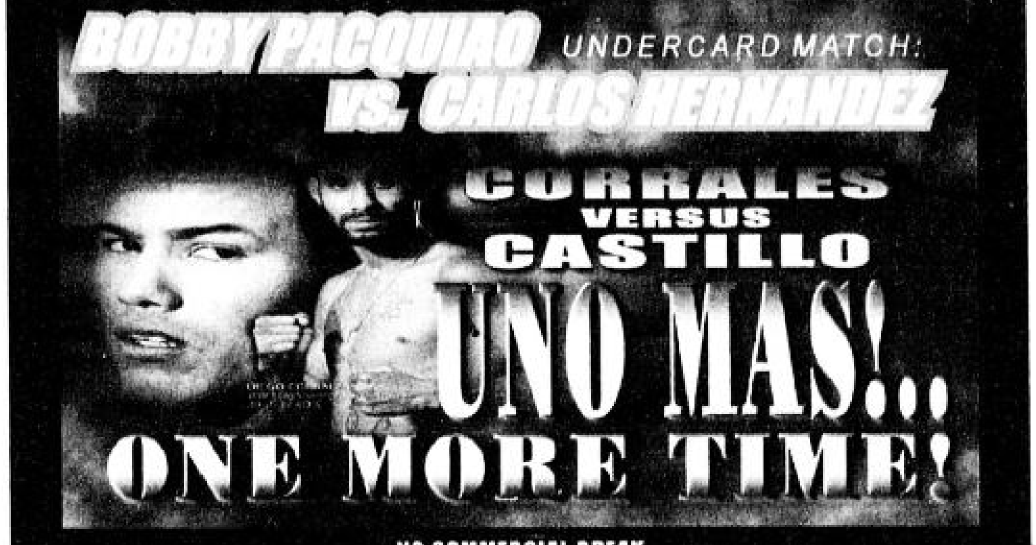

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09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
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09:05LFS/09:30LMF/10:55END
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36
09:06LFS/09:30LMF/11:00END

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SM MEGAMALL
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2 PERFECT MAN
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 DUBAI
5 ONE MISSED CALL 2
6 LAND OF THE DEAD
7 DARK WATER
8 SOUND OF THUNDER
9 DUBAI
10 LAZARUS CHILD
11 DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
12 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
DUBAI
DARK WATER
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE
6 DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
TRANSPORTER 2
LOVESTRUCK
9 DUBAI
PERFECT MAN
ONE MISSED CALL 2
CONSTANT GARDENER

SM NORTH EDSA
DUBAI
2 PERFECT MAN
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 ONE MISSED CALL 2
6 BLADE OF THE ROSE
TRANSPORTER 2
8 DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW

SM CITY MANILA
PERFECT MAN
TRANSPORTER 2
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
BROTHERS GRIMM
6 DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
DUBAI
DARK WATER
9 ONE MISSED CALL 2
PERFECT MAN
BLADE OF THE ROSE
DUBAI

SM CITY STA MESA
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
DUBAI
6 DARK WATER
BLADE OF THE ROSE
ONE MISSED CALL 2
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 PERFECT CATCH

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
2 DUBAI
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 TRANSPORTER 2
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 LOVESTRUCK
7 PERFECT MAN
8 DARK WATER
9 ONE MISSED CALL 2
10 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM SAN LAZARO
DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
LAND OF THE DEAD
TRANSPORTER 2
4 PERFECT CATCH
5 LOVESTRUCK
DUBAI

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
2 DUBAI
3 DUBAI
4 TRANSPORTER 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
TRANSPORTER 2
DUBAI
DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
4 LAND OF THE DEAD

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
BROTHERS GRIMM
DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
DARK WATER
4 LOVESTRUCK
DUBAI
6 DUBAI

SM CITY BACOOR
LAND OF THE DEAD
2 DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 DUBAI
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE
6 DUBAI
LOVESTRUCK
8 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY DASMARINAS
LAND OF THE DEAD
DARK WATER
3 DUBAI
4 THE CAVE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 DUBAI
2 DUBAI
3 LONGEST YARD
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER

SM CITY BAGUIO
DUBAI
CINDERELLA MAN
LONGEST YARD
4 THE CAVE

SM CITY MARILAO
DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
2 DUBAI
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 DARK WATER

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 DUBAI
2 DUBAI
3 THE CAVE
4 LONGEST YARD

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
BROTHERS GRIMM
2 DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
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8 DUBAI

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BROTHERS GRIMM
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
5 SKY HIGH
6 THE CAVE
RESERVED
8 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CAVE
2 DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGALOW
3 DUBAI
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER
5 BROTHERS GRIMM
6 DUBAI

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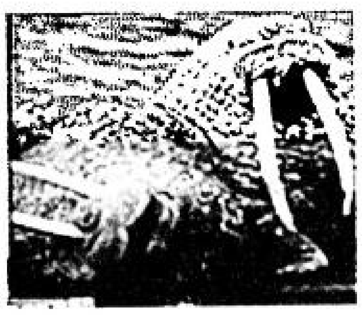
How do you say 'mating season' in Filipino?



By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SINCE TV NETWORKS HAVE been ceaselessly dubbing Mexican, Chinese and Korean telenovelas in Filipino, why not the National Geographic Channel's extensive catalogue of shows on wildlife, conservation and science and technology?

That's the inspired concept behind the new advocacy project of ACCION (Asian Cable Communications Inc.), Infocamp and ABC 5, explained Roger M. Garcia, Infocamp managing director.

"The educational and informational front is often neglected," he stressed.

The "Earthpulse" series of the National Geographic Channel (NGC), as dubbed in Filipino, will premiere on ABC 5, on Oct. 16 and will be aired every Sunday thereafter, from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

"Our primary objective is to bring global education to the youth," declared Garcia. "Even if dubbing entailed additional costs, we still proceeded with it because we wanted to reach the masses. Not all Filipinos have cable TV. The C-D market will benefit a lot from watching translated NGC shows on free TV."

Of 500 respondents in a survey that Infocamp conducted, Garcia said, "90 percent expressed excitement about watching NGC shows in Filipino."

Hungry youth

Garcia and company believe young people are hungry for educational shows. So they are cooking up projects with schools, NGOS, municipalities and barangays that would address the need.

"Our immediate goal is to form tie-ups with schools in key cities, [starting] in Metro Manila," Garcia said. "We plan to hold film/video showings and book donation campaigns for elementary and high school students. We are also discussing with the Department of Education the possibility of pursuing this project on a nationwide scale. Teachers can very well include the topics tackled on NGC shows in class discussions."

> With dubbed versions on ABC 5, National Geographic Channel's wildlife, environmental, science and technology shows go for a wider audience

They made certain that the dubbing and translation, provided by production firm Twentysomething, were first-rate (NGC had to approve translated scripts).

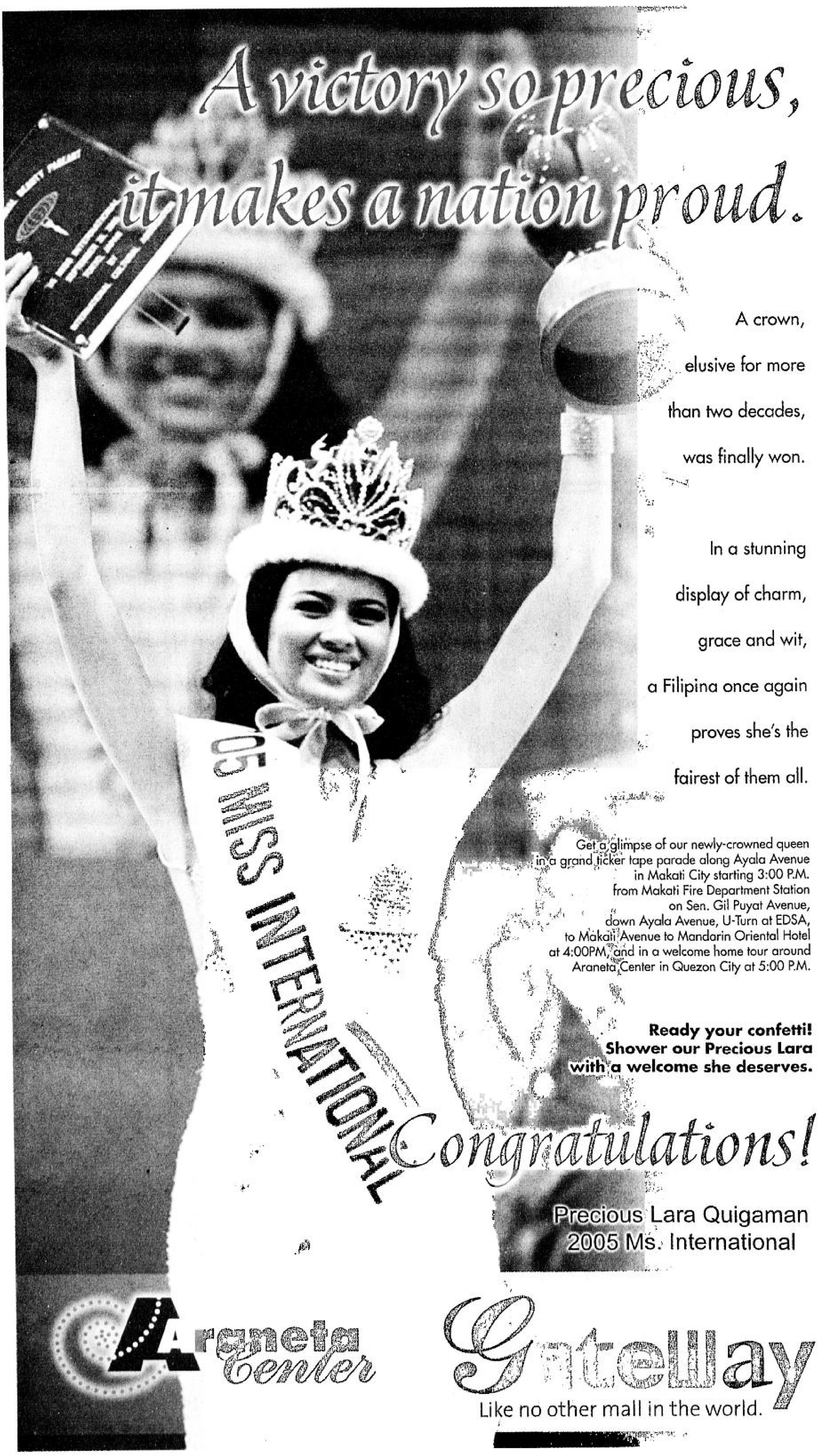
First round

Garcia's team also carefully chose the episodes, making sure that they had a bearing on pressing local issues.

The first round of shows explores a wide range of ecological concerns, like the winter migration of Monarch butterflies to Mexico and the rescue of drugged gibbons in Thailand.

"Initially, we are coming out with environmental programs, but also in the lineup are shows on science and technology that have never been aired in the Philippines, not even on cable," Garcia said.

The team envisions an interactive relationship with the target viewers. "In the future, our choice of subjects will be driven by the response of the students," said Garcia. "If they request for shows on space exploration, for example, that's what we'll give them, gladly."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'Tolits' with screen dad Vic Sotto

Vic's forecast: BJ is the next big child star

By Nini Valera

KID FIT

THE NEXT BIG CHILD STAR IS BJ FORBES, a.k.a. "Tolits," the boy whose dazzling white shirt in a series of detergent commercials makes him stand out everywhere.

This was predicted by comedian Vic Sotto, who has worked with many child stars, from Niño Muhlach to Aiza Seguerra.

"At one time or another, a child actor is bound to throw a tantrum," said Vic, who plays BJ's father in Regal Entertainment's joint venture with APT Films, "Ispiritista: Itay, May Moomoo!" But BJ never did until they finished shooting, Vic said. "I don't consider him a child actor; I think of him as a seasoned performer. If he impressed you in the TV commercials, you will be more impressed in this movie."

BJ, 7, was recently named Unesco Child Ambassador of Goodwill.

"This means I will help other children and the country," BJ, speaking in Filipino, told INQUIRER Entertainment. "But I still don't know exactly what I should be doing."

Vic noted their uncanny resemblance: "I looked just like [BJ] when I was his age, although I was taller than he is now. My son, Oyo Boy, called my attention to this."

Thus, playing the boy's father in the comedy-horror movie directed by Tony Y. Reyes was a natural turn for him, Vic said.

Televiewers first saw BJ in 2003 as a contestant in the "Eat... Bulaga!" contest, "That's My Boy." He was only 5 and he lost, but got the Best in Costume award. He was later spotted by a talent caster during auditions for "StarStruck Kids." BJ convinced his mother, Anna Liza, to take him to VTR sessions in various advertising agencies.

First shopping spree

"We went to casting calls for about five months before BJ was given his first commercial," Anna Liza recounted, also in Filipino. "Then a call came from 'Eat... Bulaga!' saying they wanted BJ on the show. He started there in December last year."

With his salary from the noontime show, BJ bought new appliances for their home in Binangonan. "So we have two of each kind in the house," said Anna Liza—two refs, two sala sets, two TVs. Then we sold our old car, a Toyota Corolla, and used the money as down payment for a new van."

Like most mothers of child stars, Anna Liza has had to contend with intrigues. "It was written in the tabloids that the whole family was dependent on BJ," she said. "That's not true. He just wants to do what he's doing now. We never forced him. I have a small business, and his father is employed in PLDT."

She took to bringing with her everywhere proof that BJ's money is untouched. "I show people [who think we're living off him] BJ's time deposit certificate," said Anna Liza. "So now people say I'm *mayabang*."

BJ, a Grade 2 pupil at Angelicum and the youngest of five siblings, understands that life in show biz may not be forever. In fact, he said, he wanted to be "a scientist, like Einstein," when he grew up.

But for the meantime, he intends to enjoy himself. Describing his co-stars, BJ said, "*Para din silang mga bata* (They are all like kids, too)."

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Fate of BIR chief hangs in the balance

Appointment to be based on meeting September target

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE FATE OF BUREAU OF INternal Revenues (BIR) officer-in-charge Jose Mario Buñag—whether he will head the tax bureau for good or be replaced—depends on his ability to meet his collection target for September.

Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves said he was "closely monitoring" the tax chief's performance in deciding whether to recommend his permanent appointment as BIR commissioner or find a replacement.

"A lot will depend on his performance," Teves said in a telephone interview. "I'm looking at the full figures for September."

Complete revenue figures for the previous month will be ready by mid-October.

Buñag's stint has been marked with controversy. His appointment as OIC was resented by a faction in the tax bureau closely identified with former Commissioner Guillermo L. Parayno Jr., while critics claim that early statements about his willingness to compromise on pending tax cases weakened the BIR's high profile Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program.

So far, the BIR claims to have collected P354.7 billion for the first eight months of the year, slightly below its programmed collection target for the period.

It exceeded its target for August, but was immediately embroiled in controversy after the Bureau of the Treasury disputed P1.4 billion of the tax bureau's P3.3-billion surplus for the period.

In a separate interview, National Treasurer Omar T. Cruz said the BIR should never have counted the disputed amount as revenues since they represented proceeds from documentary stamp taxes of the Bureau of the Treasury that were "non-cash items."

"I told them, 'take that out of your system because that [P1.4 billion] can never finance anything'," Cruz said, recalling a meeting he had with tax officials after the disputed amount was uncovered.

The national treasurer said he now discourages the release of preliminary fiscal data pending official confirmation because of the misunderstanding created by last month's incident.

"I don't want to take away their prerogative [to release preliminary data] but you have to be accountable for what you say," he said. "The market is very unforgiving."

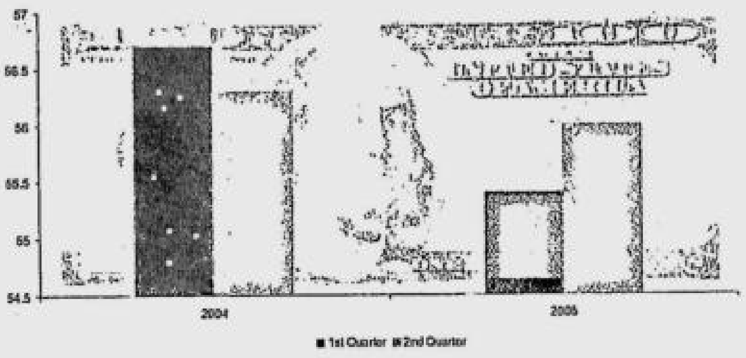
Buñag had defended the BIR's move, saying it was an accepted practice during his predecessor's time.

Buñag assumed to post in an acting capacity in July after Parayno joined the so-called Hyatt 10's mass resignation and called for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

Teves said Buñag's "behavioral characteristics are okay" but stressed that Ms Arroyo has given him the authority to hire and fire key

FATE/ B2

FOREIGN DEBT
1st and 2nd Quarter 2004-2005
In billion US dollars



Foreign debt burden rose to $56B in June

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN DEBT burden rose by 1.3 percent to $56 billion as of end-June this year from $55.4 billion a quarter ago on the public sector's debt servicing, infrastructure and social services requirements, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. reported that compared to a year ago, however, the Philippine debt stock declined by about 0.5 percent from $56.3 billion mainly due to the net principal repayment of external obligations.

As a ratio of the country's aggregate output or GNP (gross national product), the total external debt as of end-June fell by 8.2 percentage points to 56 percent from 64.2 percent a year ago.

"This development indicates an improvement in the country's capacity to service its maturing obligations on a continuing basis," Tetangco said.

The country's first semester debt ratio—or the percentage of principal and interest payments relative to the exports of goods and receipts from services and income—stood at 13.23 percent.

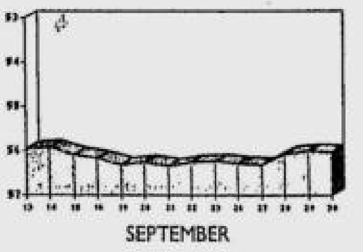
"The ratio is well below the 20-percent international benchmark and shows that the country has sufficient foreign exchange earnings to meet immediately maturing foreign obligations," the BSP chief said.

Gross disbursements on medium- and long-term accounts during the second quarter exceeded $1.3 billion, with 69 percent going to the public sector to help fund payments of foreign curren-

FOREIGN/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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₱ 56.01 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 30, 2005

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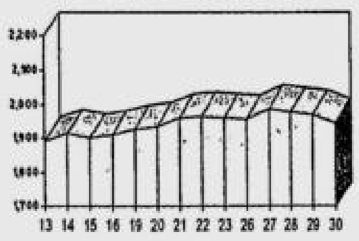
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 30, 2005

GOLD: 472.30-472.80

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 30, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B8)

Cautious trading seen to persist

THE STOCK MARKET IS EXPECTED TO REmain cautious this week with a possible relief rally should the political waters calm down and rumors of a coup dissipate, according to market analysts.

CAUTIOUS/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Ombudsman offensive /B3
Gov't execs at odds over fiscal reform /B4
Chinese groups seen putting up ports in RP /B6

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Fate of BIR chief . . .

From page B1

personnel under the finance department as needed.

"That was our agreement when I assumed this post: that I would have a free hand to choose people [to fill key positions]," Teves said.

Sought for a reaction over the weekend, Buñag declined to comment on his boss' remarks.

"I don't want to comment because you're unfair to me," he said. "You're attacking me."

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Gross National Happiness

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

I AM WRITING THIS SOME 2.5 KILOMETERS above sea level in picturesque Thimpu, capital city of the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan, a tiny country nestled up in the Himalayas and sandwiched between China's Tibet province and India. Apart from its still unspoiled natural beauty, Bhutan has come to be known for its espousal of Gross National Happiness (GNH) as its development philosophy, with its 50-year-old King Jigme Singye Wangchuk being its foremost exponent. I was privileged to be with a small group to whom the King granted a rather extended audience marked by an unexpectedly rich discussion, and thus heard from him first hand about this novel concept that I had only read and heard about before.

Means, not ends

Most socioeconomic indicators merely measure means, and not ends. In the classroom, I constantly teach my students that GNP does not and should not be taken as an indicator of well-being. It merely measures the level of economic production (and thus income), period. But growth in income does not directly imply an increase in happiness.

When you wreck your car in a road accident and injure yourself in the process, you raise GNP because of the additional repair and medical services that become necessary. When a family in a rich country decides to care for their elderly rather than send them off to a nursing home (thankfully not yet a formal economic enterprise in our society), they keep measured GNP lower than it otherwise would have been had they chosen to pay for the service. In either example, a higher GNP is associated with increased unhappiness. Clearly, there is no direct correspondence between GNP and GNH. This is because the goods and services we consume are not ends in themselves; they can merely (and not always) be means toward increasing happiness, or reducing unhappiness.

GNH need not even be measurable like GNP to be a useful policy target. While scholars have begun to try to find a way to quantify the concept, the Bhutanese leaders believe that the obsession with measurement may even ultimately undermine its very usefulness.

Bhutanese wisdom

The King of Bhutan has wisely proclaimed that the ultimate purpose of government is to promote the happiness of the people. Happiness must be a policy concern and a policy objective. By giving GNH greater importance than GNP, Bhutan's leaders give happiness precedence over economic prosperity. Materialism, they assert, must be balanced with spirituality. In Bhutanese culture, inner spiritual development is valued as much as external material development.

Development, in turn, is defined as enlightenment of the individual. Enlightenment is not solely an object of religious activity. It is a goal of psychological evolution for any lay person, regardless of his or her formal faith. It is a blossoming of happiness. It is turning one's mind inwards to achieve knowledge of the self, which is crucial to attaining individual liberty and freedom, and gain happiness. This squares with how Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen defines development; he asserts that development is freedom.

Happiness, not production

While all this may sound abstract to the unenlightened, a true anecdote brings the point home quite clearly. In the late 1980s, the Bhutan government encouraged a prominent and influential farmer in an eastern village to double-crop a high yielding rice variety. Indeed, he had a bumper harvest and considerable surplus grain that year. It was hoped that by serving as a successful example, other farmers would emulate him and thus diffuse the improved technology. The authorities were thus astonished when the model farmer refused to grow it again the following year. He explained that the bumper harvest had left him enough to live on for another year. Thus, he would rather live leisurely and spiritually—and spent his time in the monastery instead.

Clearly, more happiness and more production are two entirely different things.

Four pillars

Culture Minister Lyonpo Jigmi Thinley explained to us how the Bhutanese government operationalizes the pursuit of GNH. The four major goals that are the pillars to its achievement are economic growth and development, preservation and sustainable use of the environment, preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, and good governance. Without good governance, he asserts, none of the goals are achievable. The government provides free education, health and other social services. A policy of keeping at least 60 percent of their land area under forest cover is firmly in place. Promotion of their indigenous culture is a major concern, and is immediately seen in the way the men continue to wear their robe-like indigenous attire (gho) and the women their traditional ankle-length dress (kira). They admit that cultural and environmental objectives can get in the way of economic growth. But they are also of the conviction that the rich character of the society in Bhutan, along with their happiness, would have been diminished if they merely focused on the generation of material wealth.

When I told the King that I was inspired to write about Gross National Happiness in my next column, he floored the group with his witty reply: "Then you are going to make Philippine government leaders unhappy."

His Majesty knew a lot more of our country than I ever expected.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Cautious trading seen to persist

From page B1

For the week, the benchmark price indicator Phisix dropped 17.4 points or 0.89 percent to 1,942.07.

"There are still some significant headwinds out there that are causing fussy investors to quickly take small profits. The primary catalyst in the market remains to be the twin factors of oil and politics. Another issue to watch out for is the expanded value-added tax law, which could be implemented (this) week," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc.

An unannounced meeting on Friday between President Macapagal-Arroyo and top police generals sparked fresh coup rumors and pushed the market index down 28 points last Friday.

A group of retired military officers including some involved in previous coup plots had rallied behind an embattled general and a colonel who defied Ms Arroyo and warned of growing restlessness in the Armed Forces.

In a weekly report, Vistan said buying momentum was also stalled by renewed economic worries over oil prices abroad that flirted with the $60-$70 a barrel level. The US Department of Energy announced that 25 percent of overall US oil refining capacity was shut down due to the past two hurricanes.

As a result, repairs on some major plants may take a month before operations are restored, which might affect production and refining activities. On the local front, news of the country's trade deficit ($2.268 billion in the first seven months) sent negative signals given the prospects of slower-than-anticipated economic growth in the second half, Vistan wrote.

"We expect big property players to flex their financial muscle if rising interest rates derail an accelerated property recovery. Capital values in the Makati Central Business District have slowly trended upward, regaining 11 percent of their value close to P200,725 per square meter after bottoming out in 2002. Part of the recovery can be attributed to the fast rise of the call center industry in the last five years, which has driven up office and retail space demand in the Makati CBD. Based on Colliers Jardine's property report, total office supply in Makati is expected to grow further to 2.65 million square meters in 2005 with the completion of People Support Center (completed as of June) and Convergys before yearend," Vistan further wrote. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Foreign debt burden . . .

From page B1

cy obligations as well as infrastructure and social services projects, Tetangco noted.

The remaining 31 percent of fresh borrowings represented availment by the private sector mainly for relending as well as projects in the transportation, communications and power generation sectors.

Net inflows from new foreign borrowings—or those in excess of availment used for principal debt repayments—reached more than $1 billion during the quarter, thus propping up the debt stock. These were partially offset by downward foreign exchange revaluation adjustment of $780 million.

The country's foreign debt during the quarter was also increased by some $316 million in overseas borrowings of offshore banking units (OBUs) operating in the country.

Starting 2004, OBUs with local operations were classified as residents in monetary and financial statistics and their borrowings were included in the foreign debt stock, even those whose proceeds were fully relent or invested abroad.

Of the country's total debt stock, external liabilities of the public sector accounted for 68.2 percent.

"The maturity profile of the debt stock remained healthy with (medium- and long-term) accounts representing 89 percent of the total," Tetangco said. These loans had an average maturity of 17.6 years.

Tetangco said the country continued to enjoy access to a wide investor base, as evident in the diversified creditor profile of outstanding liabilities.

Official funders consisting of multilateral and bilateral institutions accounted for 41.7 percent of the total, followed by foreign holders of bonds and notes at 31.7 percent and foreign banks and other financial institutions at 21.5 percent. The remaining 5.1 percent consisted of trade suppliers.

About 52 percent of the country's debt stock was denominated in US dollars and 27.91 percent in Japanese yen.

Ombudsman offensive

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

SIMEON MARCELO WILL STILL be Ombudsman until Nov. 30, but this early the two legal power blocs closest to Malacañang are already trying to position their respective candidates.

According to the grapevine, Villaraza and Angangco, a.k.a. The Firm, the home firm of Marcelo before Edsa II, is set to nominate another name partner, Raul Angangco, as next Ombudsman.

Volumes have been written about The Firm, but the other legal power bloc, right within Malacañang, is hardly known, even within the legal circles.

The other power bloc refers to two low-key GMA aides, the husband and wife team of Carlos and Erlinda de Leon; nominations to the Department of Justice and the judiciary are said to pass their offices before the papers are forwarded to the President for her final signature.

Carlos de Leon, by way of backgrounder, was an ex-Quezon City prosecutor who now holds the rank of presidential assistant. He was drafted into Malacañang by virtue of his marriage to lawyer/ex-court researcher Erlinda Bautista of Bulacan, a GMA cousin who holds the rank of a confidential assistant.

The male De Leon was appointed assistant court administrator in the Supreme Court after Edsa II until he was transferred to the Palace. Like his wife, De Leon is a San Beda law graduate.

Mrs. De Leon, on the other hand, briefly shot into public consciousness when the television flashed the postdated Landbank checks for Zambales Rep. Antonio Diaz that Education Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz refused to honor.

The signatory to those checks was none other than Erlinda de Leon.

If the grapevine is to be believed, the De Leons are said to be pushing for Sandiganbayan Justice Diosdado Peralta, whose strong point within certain legal circles is that he is not averse to chamber conferences.

Locsins roiling

THE LOCSINS of the newspaper world are undergoing the industry equivalent of a regime change.

Because of ownership change in Manila Times, grand mason Enrique Locsin has had to give up his position as president of the historic daily.

His more accomplished brother, Makati Rep. Teodoro "Teddy Boy" Locsin Jr., is, if the industry grapevine is to be believed, also set to join his Today staff members who bolted out of the Manila Standard merger and who now form the editorial nucleus of the upcoming business daily being bankrolled by Ambassador Antonio Cabangon Chua.

Teddy Boy has increasingly been referred to as the "absentee publisher" within the Manila Standard Today, spending more time in Congress, television and political/social functions rather than staining his fingers in the daily's Port Area offices.

In Quezon City, yet another Locsin, Businessworld heir Barbara Locsin, is being beset by desertions

COCKTALES/ B9

Jollibee drops bid for Indian firm

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FAST FOOD GIANT Jollibee Foods Corp. has dropped talks with New Delhi family restaurant Nirula's but said it was still looking at more acquisitions in India and China this year, a ranking official told the INQUIRER.

Jollibee has been in talks with Nirula's on a possible acquisition but these were recently stopped after the New Delhi company was sold to another company.

Nirula's was established in 1934 and is now a chain of business hotels, waiter service restaurants, family-style restaurants, ice cream parlors, pastry shops and food processing plants across India. The chain caters to more than 50,000 guests every day.

Undaunted by this development, Jollibee's Chinese fast food brand Chowking is in talks with possible foreign partners on a possible venture in Mumbai, India.

Chowking, a subsidiary of Jollibee, operates 313 stores nationwide and 15 overseas (three in Indonesia, four in the United Arab Emirates and eight in the United States).

Chowking is studying opportunities in either New Delhi or Mumbai, aiming to open a store next year, according to Eduardo Paredes, the company's head for international business development.

Paredes added that Chowking plans to open another store in Los Angeles this year, and two more in the United Arab Emirates, for a total of 18 stores this year.

JOLLIBEE/ B8

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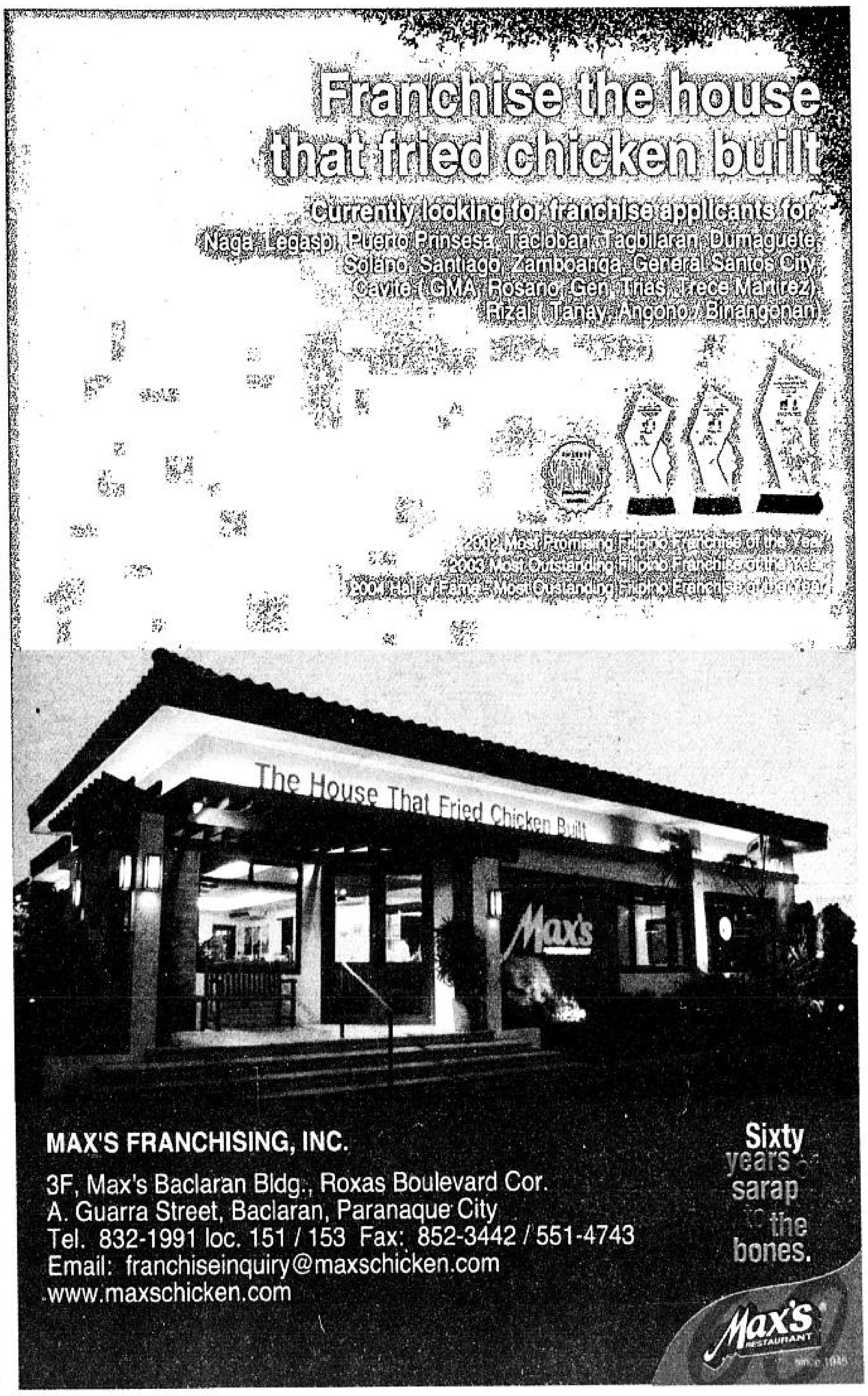

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BDO pegs growth of domestic economy at a slow 4.5% in '05

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE DOMESTIC ECONOMY will likely grow at a slower pace of 4.5 percent this year and 5 percent next year due to shock waves brought on by soaring oil prices and volatile exchange rate, according to Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

BDO chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said economic growth would inevitably slow from the 6.1 percent expansion seen last year.

But Ravelas pointed out during a recent macroeconomic presentation that the services sector, along with consumer spending, would spur domestic expansion, especially with remittances from overseas Filipino workers likely growing by 4-5 percent to $8.25 billion.

"Trade and telecom sectors will continue to expand," he said.

The bank's GDP forecasts were lower than the government's targets of 5.3 percent this year and 5.7-6.3 percent for next year.

Ravelas also said inflation was likely to rise moderately in 2005 on strong demand conditions and economic growth, higher crude and utility prices as well as uncertainty over the sustainability of improvements in the fiscal sector.

"Near term, interest rates will be driven by concerns in the fiscal front," he said, noting that the market remains awash with cash.

He said several factors had contributed to the sharp increases in crude prices to over $60 per barrel compared to about $40 per barrel at end-2004 and $10 per barrel at end-1998.

"Global demand rose along with strong economic growth, in which 2004 was the highest in almost three decades," Ravelas said.

Based on the US International Energy Agency's estimates, world demand had risen to 5.1 million barrels per day to 82.5 million MBD in 2004 from 77.4 MBD in 2001.

Recognizing the fact that oil prices may remain high until the end of the year, Ravelas said Asian governments were taking measures to conserve oil and improve efficiency.

Gov't execs at odds over fiscal reform

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC managers are divided over the pace of government's fiscal reform program, with expenditures for new infrastructure and basic services over the next five years hanging in the balance.

On one side are the budget "hawks" like Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves who wants to wipe out the national government's chronic fiscal deficit by 2008, mainly through the imposition of unpopular new levies like the Value-Added Tax (VAT) Law.

"It would be good to be able to balance our budget sooner," he said in a telephone interview over the weekend. "With [tax collections from] VAT, the balanced budget could be achieved earlier."

The finance chief said the country's foreign creditors, along with credit-rating firms and multilateral lenders, are all pushing for a faster pace of fiscal reform.

The reward for sticking to such an aggressive program, he explained, include lower borrowings costs from abroad—an issue which impacts directly on the Department of Finance's performance—and greater investor confidence in the country.

"Conceptually, I prefer balancing the budget by 2008," Teves said.

The latest version of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) sets the government to balancing its budget by the end of President Macapagal-Arroyo's term in 2010.

Teves said, however, that this assumption excludes potential tax gains from the controversial VAT Law which can rake in up to P100 billion in fresh revenues each year.

Other economic managers, however, favor a more relaxed approach that will not squeeze off funding from vital infrastructure projects and basic services like education and health care.

In an earlier interview, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter B. Favila said the government should stick to the original balanced budget target and spend the two-year revenue buffer on critical expenditure programs.

Sticking stubbornly to a Spartan fiscal program will be detrimental to the country, especially if the lack of spending on infrastructure eventually ends up deterring foreign investors, Favila explained.

At present, Teves' hawkish view—inherited from former Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima—stands unique, as other key Arroyo economic advisers like Albay Rep. Jose S. Salceda and Budget Secretary Romulo L. Neri also prefer a laissez faire approach to fiscal reform.

In a telephone interview, Neri, who also chairs the influential Development Budget Coordination Committee, stressed his preference for sticking to the original balanced budget target, despite gains on the taxation front.

"We should not starve the economy," he said. "Our budget should not be too tight."

Given the divided views of the economic team, the budget chief believes the fiscal deficit will be wiped out "somewhere in between" 2008 and 2010—a view that worries DOF officials.

"The danger there is that the international community will once more think we're backsliding on our commitments," said a DOF official, requesting anonymity. "The market may end up penalizing us."

Filipino architects get Apec accreditation

FILIPINO ARCHITECTS WILL BE accredited to practice their profession in Apec countries through the Apec Architect Registry.

Apec is an international forum of 21 national economies that includes the USA, Australia and Japan.

The Apec Monitoring Committee Philippine Section, composed of the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), in coordination with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), last month launched the registry simultaneously with other participating Apec member countries.

"The Apec Architect Registry is a response to the strategic priority of facilitating mobility of qualified persons through the mutual recognition of professional qualifications among countries," said Edric Marco C. Florentino, fuap, UAP's national president. "It breaks down a major barrier that prevents Filipinos from practicing architecture abroad."

The synchronized international launch of Apec Architect Registry culminated four years of preparatory meetings, in which participating Apec countries agreed on the criteria by which a local architect may be evaluated as an Apec architect.

The Philippine launch was made possible with the help of Wilcon Builders Supply and Wilcon Builders' Depot, material providers supplying the local building design and construction industry.

Internationally recognized, the UAP is a member of the Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA), Architects Regional Council-Asia (Arcasia), and the Eastern Regional Organization for Planning and Housing (EAROPH). Republic Act No. 9266, or the Architecture Act of 2004, has designated UAP as the the country's Integrated and Accredited Professional Organization of Architects (IAPOA). The law requires membership in UAP before an architect carries out his profession anywhere in the country.

RP trade mission off to UAE, Kazakh republic

THE FIRST PHILIPPINE economic and trade mission to the Republic of Kazakhstan and the United Arab Emirates departed on Oct. 1 to explore opportunities in the oil business.

Edward L. Fereira of the Philippine Consulate in Kazakhstan is the head of mission.

Eduardo V. Mañalac and Rafael V. del Pilar of the Philippine National Oil Company have accompanied the group of businessmen in their foray abroad.

The PNOC executives are scheduled to meet with Kazakh government officials, as well as the heads of Kazmunaigas, Kazakhstan's leading oil and gas firm.

Kazakhstan, a former Soviet republic, possesses an enormous supply of crude oil and petroleum gas, and can produce almost 1.72 million barrels daily. The country is being eyed as a prospective market for Philippine products and services.

Members of the trade mission will also meet with United Arab Emirates officials to discuss the investments between the Philippines and UAE that have remained untapped.

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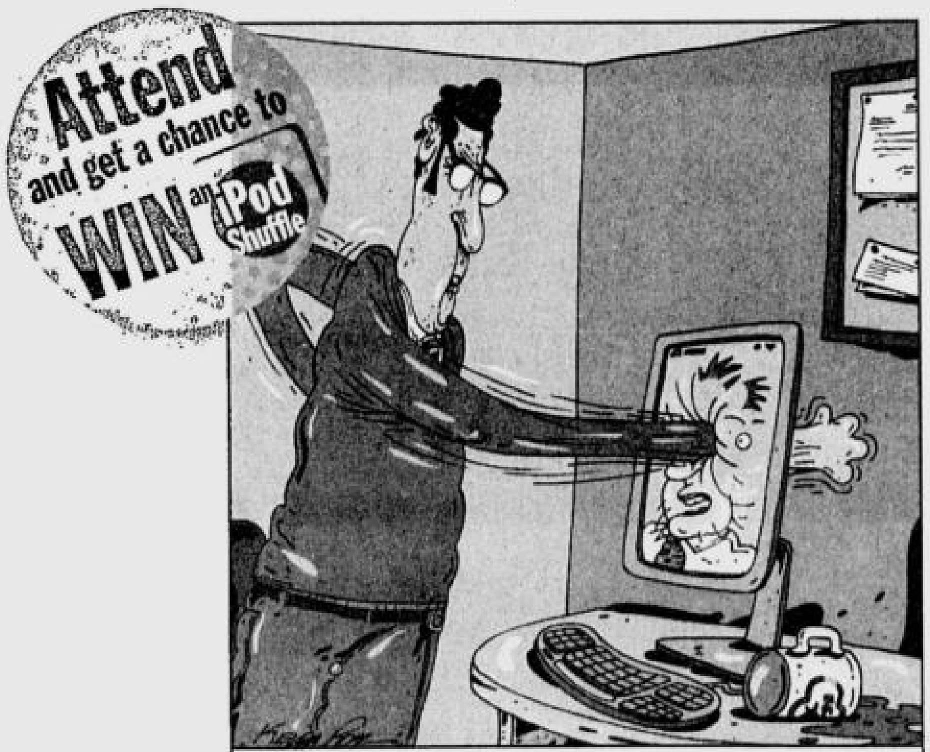

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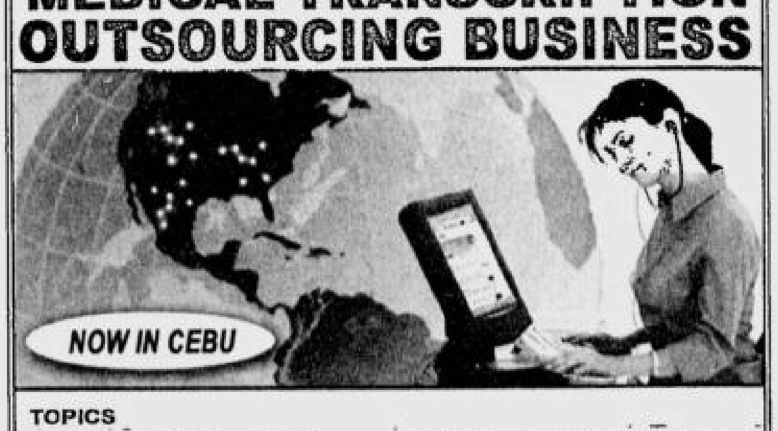

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PAL, CEB buck Clark flight policy

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES' TWO BIGGEST AIRLINES have opposed the Arroyo administration's plan to fully liberalize air policies at the Clark international airport on grounds it would give foreign budget carriers extensive aviation rights at the expense of local carriers.

Thai AirAsia is seeking the go-ahead of the Civil Aeronautics Board for its Bangkok-Macau-Clark operations, while Singapore's Tiger Airways Ltd wants to expand its existing flights in Clark by operating Clark-Macau-Clark routes.

Both want to start this month.

Philippine Airlines and Cebu Air Pacific are blocking the petition of the two carriers, according to the CAB.

They said the proposed routes were not even allowed under a regular bilateral deal.

PAL of Lucio Tan and Cebu Pacific of John Gokongwei were worried that the Macau stopover would cannibalize their Manila-Hong Kong route at a time when profit has been squeezed due to fierce competition.

Macau is a gambling capital and the carriers find volume in these routes by packaging Clark and Macau to tourists who enjoy casinos.

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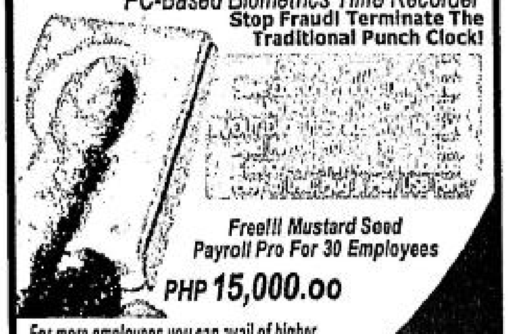

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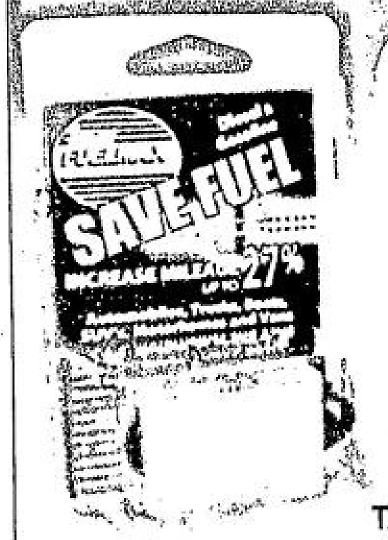

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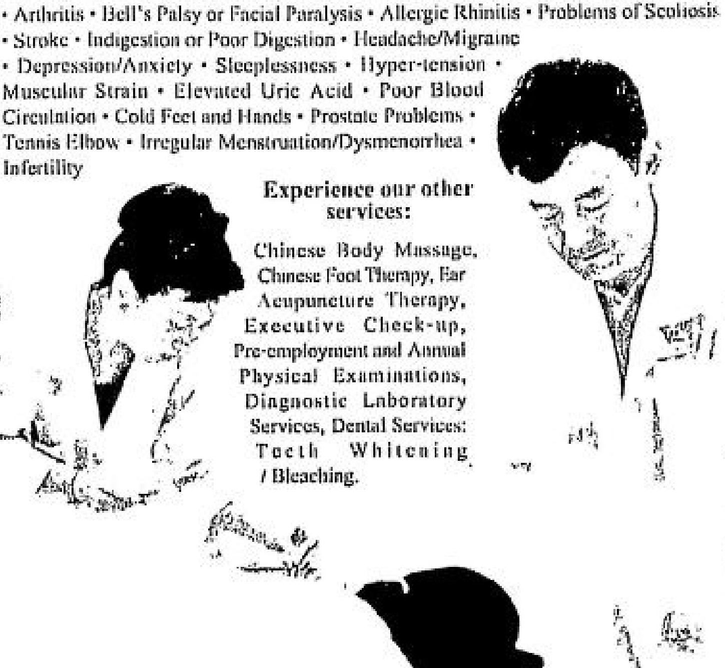

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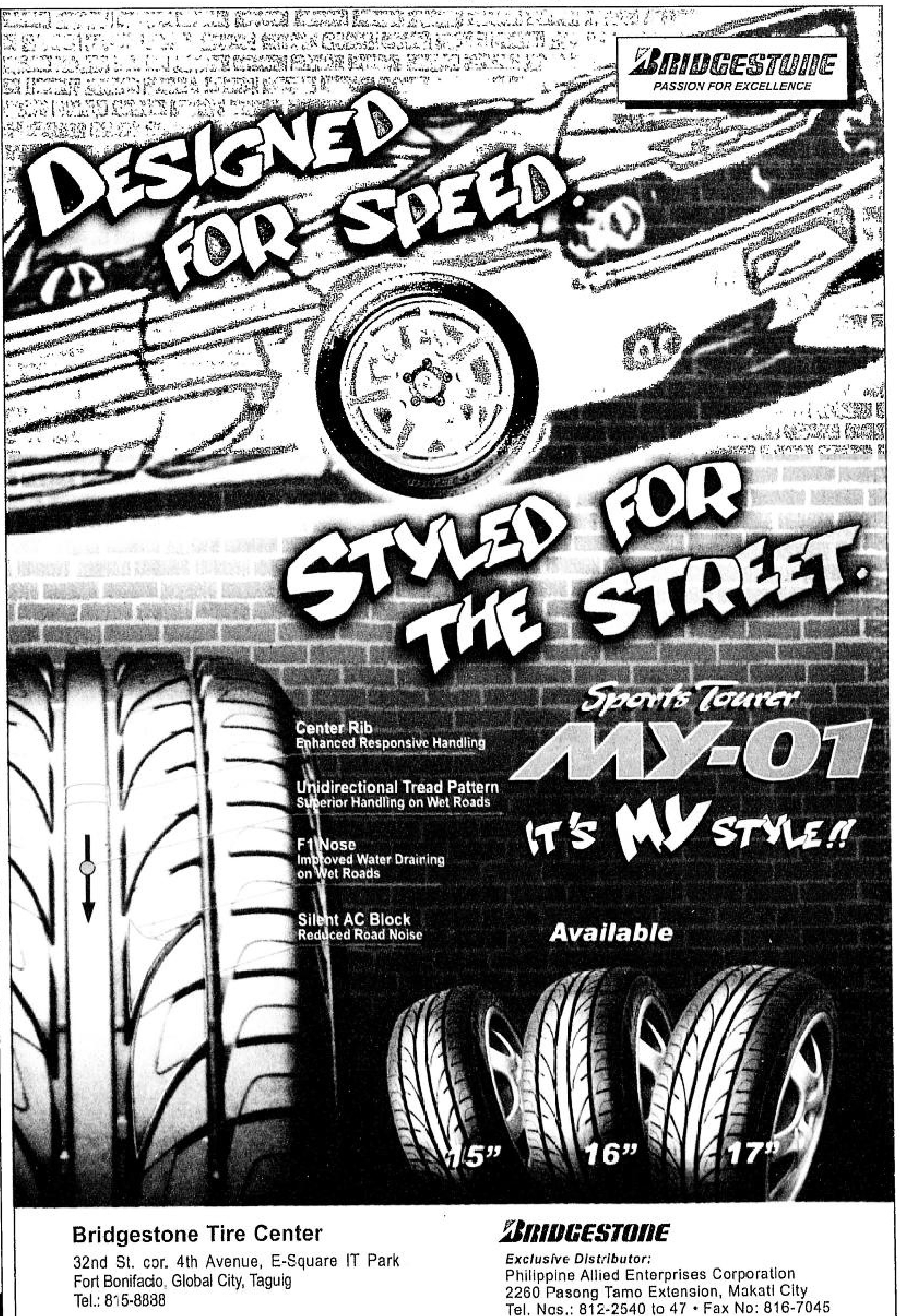

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Chinese groups seen putting up ports in RP

Support facilities for mining investments

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CHINESE INVESTORS HAVE EXPRESSED interest in building seaports around the country to support their other prospective investments, particularly those in the mining sector.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said in an interview that one of the concerns of companies from the mainland was the capacity of Philippine ports to accommodate ships large enough to facilitate the movement of materials like ores.

"They noted that an average port could accommodate only 20,000-ton ships, while it was routine for them to haul cargoes at 200,000-ton vessels," Favila said.

He said the capacity of local docks was important for the Chinese because a big part of the investments they would infuse into the country were going to mining projects.

When China's president Hu Jintao visited earlier this year, one of the agreement signed was a $300-million outlay for the rehabilitation of the Nonoc nickel mine in Surigao del Norte.

Sources said China's largest producer of nickel—the Gansu-based Jinchuan Group Ltd.—was awaiting results of an evaluation by the provincial government, which could endorse the project for final approval in Beijing.

The total cost of this project, if it would push through, was estimated to reach about $1 billion.

Budget Secretary Romulo Neri said last week that with China's foreign exchange reserves running at $500 billion, Chinese investors were eagerly looking for projects to invest in worldwide.

"Ambassador Wu Hongbo told me recently that investors were interested in building ports in the provinces of Aurora and Quezon," Neri said.

One such planned port is to rise in Dingalan, Aurora, which is being positioned as an east coast counterpart of the Subic port facilities.

Other possible new ports are in Infanta and General Nakar towns of Quezon, also in Luzon's Pacific coast.

Nordic bank expanding loan exposure in RP ventures

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NORDIC INVESTMENT BANK IS KEEN on increasing its exposure in the Philippines by seeking other projects that it can finance.

The multilateral financial institution—owned by Nordic countries Iceland, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, and Baltic countries Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—currently has its biggest Asian exposure in China at 32 percent of its total loans to the region, said NIB vice president and regional manager Soren Mortensen.

He said the Philippines was among the Asian countries where the bank had the least exposure at only 8 percent, the same as in Indonesia.

"It's not a lot, but we'll be happy to do more," he said.

In the Philippines, NIB has exposure in two projects with the National Power Corp., one co-financing deal with World Bank and one with the Nordic Development Fund.

It also has deals with telecommunications firms Smart Communications Inc., Globe Telecom Inc. and Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., as well as with the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The NIB also signed a $50-million memorandum of understanding with the Department of Finance to fund an airport development project and a bioenergy project.

Mortesen is calling interested parties to submit their financing proposals, noting that NIB had flexible lending conditions and a speedy approval process, usually just about two months.

For sovereign loans, the repayment period ranges from 15 to 20 years. For the private sector, the loan tenor goes down to between eight and 10 years. Both types of loans are given a grace period of between three and five years. Interest rates can be either floating or fixed.

Mortensen said there were very few rules and regulations when it came to loans as most of these were tailor-fit to the borrower's needs.

Those peaceful rallies on Ayala

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

IF PRESIDENT ARROYO IS, AT LONG LAST, flexing her muscles when she instituted the new policy of 'calibrated preemptive response' in handling public dissent, I can well sympathize with her. After all, she has been battered these past months. She has been burned in effigy. Invectives have been thrown at her.

Lawyers, police officers and politicians have discussed the new policy in the media. The opinions have been quite thorough and scholarly. But none of them has the insight of one like myself whose office is just a stone's throw away from Ninoy's monument on Ayala Avenue where all the rallies in Makati are held.

Let us take the rally last Sept. 21, the 33rd anniversary of Edsa 1. As usual, the demonstrators started marching down the avenue after lunchtime. Somebody was on the bullhorn. A loudspeaker was mounted on a truck. This is what is called airing one's grievances.

They ended up massing in front of of the monument at the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas. The red banners of communist front organizations like Bayan Muna, Akbayan, Anak Pawis and Partido ng Manggagawa dominated the scene. This is the main reason why people on Ayala Avenue get turned off.

There was a contingent of Senator Lacson's Be Not Afraid Movement with yellow pennants. Brother Eddie Villanueva's green banners were nowhere to be seen. Then followed the speeches on the stage set up in front of the monument. Finally, the rock music extravaganza wound up the show. It was all quite noisy.

On the ground, the usual opposition stalwarts and communist diehards were interviewed on TV. The whole show was staged for the benefit of the TV cameras in the hope that the footage will find its way not only to ANC, but, more important, to CNN and BBC. As soon as the camera crews go home, the rally started to break up.

I estimate that, at the height of the rally, there were no more than 3,000 participants. There were some mercenaries in rubber sandals. But it was the smallest crowd this season.

My office is on the backside of the 5th floor of the Prudential Bank building, just a stone's throw away from Ninoy's monument. The noise does not really bother my employees and I, but just knowing that the rally is going on, upsets our work. I decided to send the employees home by 3 p.m., just like some of the other offices in the neighborhood did.

I asked a sidewalk vendor how his fish balls were selling. Business was slow, he said. I guess his usual customers, the employees on the avenue, had gone home early. And the demonstrators don't buy fish balls.

Peace and order is not always the absence of violence. And violence does not always mean cracking skulls. When someone uses a bullhorn to air his grievances into my eardrum, isn't that violence?

Will this new policy of 'calibrated preemptive response' discourage rallies? The mercenaries—the *hakot* crowd— will probably stay away. No one will risk arrest for a measly P100 attendance fee. The diehard leftists will probably dare the police to do their worst.

But what will stop the rallies is the absence of popular support. At Ayala Avenue, as long as the employees keep to their desk and the residents in the surrounding subdivisions stay home, the rallies will come to naught. That is not apathy. Those who stage these rallies have not been able to do a good job of selling their cause to the people.

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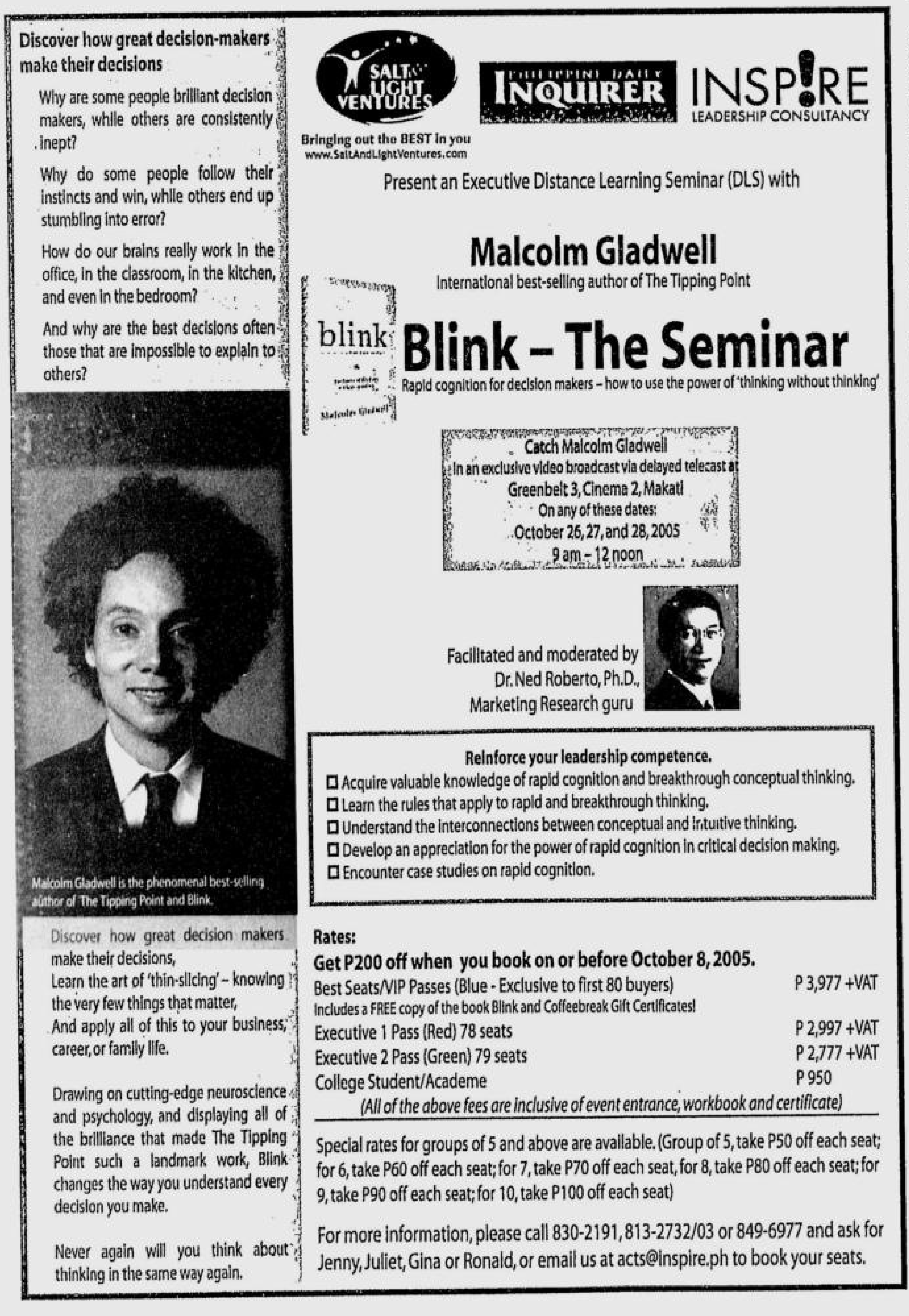

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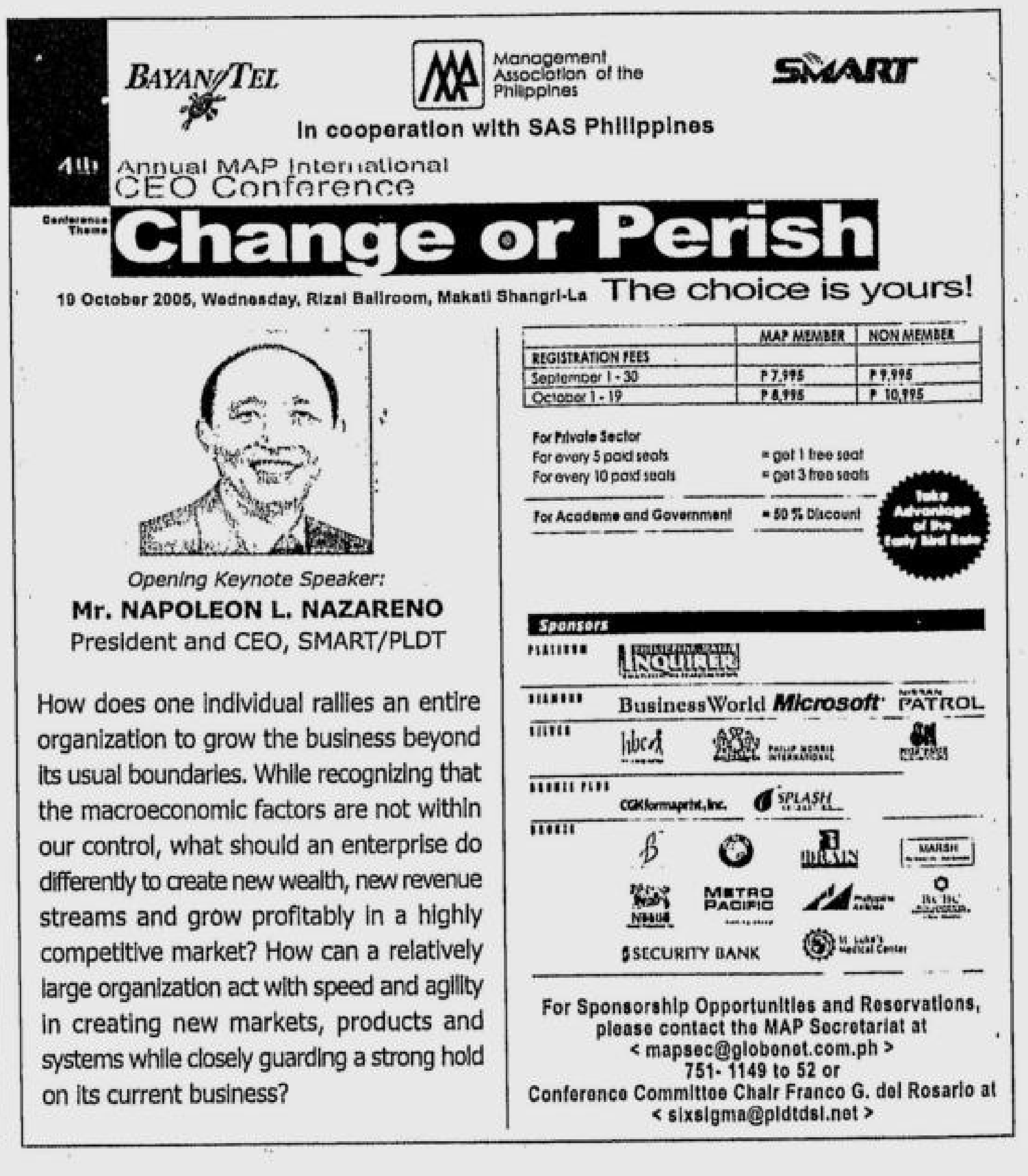

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Sun Life H1 net up 47%

By Doris C. Dumlao

SUN LIFE FINANCIAL Philippines reaped P1 billion in net profits in the first semester, up by 47 percent from a year ago, on higher premium and investment incomes.

The company announced that for its life insurance portfolio, first year premium grew by 8 percent to P421 million over the same period last year.

Total premium income rose by 7 percent to P3.7 billion, while investment income grew by 24 percent to P2.9 billion, bringing total revenue to P6.5 billion.

While sales of pre-need policies went down beginning April, the company said that its pre-need revenues remained healthy.

Total pre-need installment revenue as of June increased 33 percent, and total revenue grew by 38 percent compared to the same period last year.

Sun Life's trust fund contribution averaged at 68 percent of gross contract price (GCP) based on more popular 5-pay plans, higher than the SEC's requirement of only 51 percent of GCP.

The company's mutual fund business also posted a strong growth of 45 percent in gross sales, bringing the total to P1.4 billion.

Assets under management reached P6.3 billion, 22 percent higher than last year's level.

US firm to beef up RP business

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PLASTIC HOMEWARE firm Tupperware Philippines Inc. has announced that its sales agents would begin offering beauty products under a worldwide expansion move as its parent firm in the United States expects to complete a $557-million deal to buy direct selling company Sara Lee.

Jose de Jesus Buenrostro, TPI president, said the firm was aiming at doubling its business through beauty products, using its established network of agents nationwide.

Last month, TPI launched the product line of BeautiControl, another cosmetics, fragrances and toiletries (CFT) firm that Tupperware USA acquired in 2000.

Jesus said that they expected to wrap up the Sare Lee deal before the year ends, adding that the Philippines offers a great potential for this line of business.

Company officials cited studies made by Euromonitor and AC Nielsen, which show that the country had the fifth highest consumption rate of CFT products in the world.

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Promo Price: P2,499
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FREE RJ-45 retractable cable *for every purchase of any of these switches!* Switch

SR224
24-Port 10/100 switch
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Promo Price: P7,499
SAVE: P500

SRW224
24-Port 10/100 switch with Web view
SRP: P15,099
Promo Price: P13,599
SAVE: P1,500

SRW2024
24-Port 10/100/1000 Gigabit switch
SRP: P34,999
Promo Price: P32,999
SAVE: P2,000

SD2005
5-Port 10/100/1000 Gigabit switch
SRP: P7,399
Promo Price: P6,899
SAVE: P500

SD2008
8-Port 10/100/1000 Gigabit switch
SRP: P8,899
Promo Price: P8,399
SAVE: P500

*Free Linksys golf umbrellas for the buyers of WRT54GX or WMP54GX.
*Free Linksys RJ-45 retractable cable for the purchasers of any of the switches above
Promo valid from Oct. 6, 2005 to Oct. 9, 2005 only. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-496 Series of 2005

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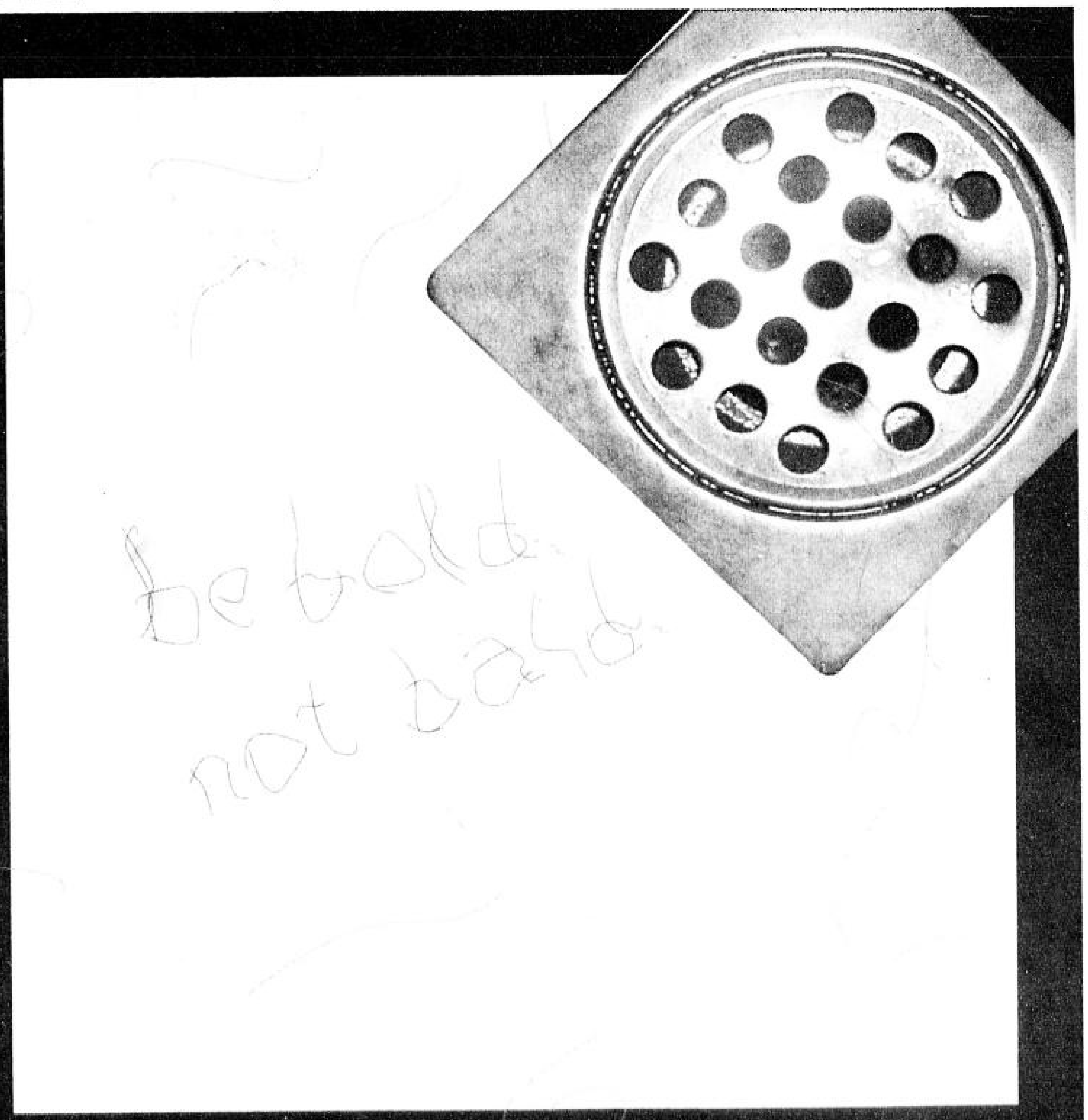
Website: www.microwarehouse.com.ph

Wash away your worries about Male Pattern Hair Loss (MPHL). It is caused by increased levels of DHT (dihydrotestosterone) in the scalp[1]. MPHL is characterized by loss of visible hair over areas of your scalp[2]. This is a progressive condition and chances are it will get worse as time goes by if left untreated[1], unless you will be bold enough to do something about MPHL.

Research indicates that seeking early medical treatment can slow down continued hair loss and in some cases hair can even be regrown[1].

Ask your dermatologist about ways with which you can fight male pattern hair loss.

You don't have to drain your energy looking for other solutions. Just be bold, so you don't have to be bald.



ProHAIR

you can reverse male pattern hair loss.[1,*]

For more information on the ProHAIR program call hotline number 878-6338.
You may also send inquiries to fax no. 813-1172 or email: inquire@prohair-info.com

ProHAIR is a Healthcare Information Program of MSD in cooperation with the Philippine Dermatological Society

Reference : 1. Libecco J and Bergfeld WF. Expert Opin Pharmacother 2004;5(4):933-940
2. Kaufman K. Eur J Dermatol 2002 12:38-49

* In studies, hair has been regrown in MPHL patients, but individual results may vary from patient to patient
12-2005-PPC-05-PH-4004-AD

FOURTH WEEK OF SEPT.

‘Hot money’ flowed out of market

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS FLOWED OUT OF local stocks and bonds in the fourth week of September as the expected hike in US Federal Reserve overnight interest rates would make overseas investments more attractive.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas’ data showed that there was a net outflow of portfolio investments, also referred to as “hot money” due to their volatile nature, amounting to $5 million in the week ending Sept. 23.

A net outflow arises when there is more capital going out of the country than registered foreign portfolio investments coming in.

Foreign portfolio investment outflows amounted to $82.5 million as against inflows of $77.5 million during the week.

“Some funds were brought out because of opportunities in other countries,” said a BSP official.

That same week, the US Fed raised its interest rate by another 25 basis points for the 11th straight session to 3.75 percent.

The BSP was thus forced to raise its own overnight rates by 25 basis points in the same week, partly to address the narrowing interest rate difference between the Philippines and other countries.

In the second week of September, a bigger net outflow of $29.8 million was posted, although there were net inflows in the first and third weeks.

With these developments, the country will likely post its worst monthly portfolio investment performance for the year.

Thanks to huge inflows in the first few months of the year, however, the net windfall was still more than the inflows posted last year.

From January to Sept. 23, the net inflows of portfolio investments to the Philippines amounted to $1.99 billion, dwarfing the $191.7 million in net inflows in the same period last year.

American Express Bank’s global economics unit said the turbulent weather conditions in the United States made it even more difficult to predict how the economy will perform, but that another Fed rate hike was still likely at the November 1st meeting.

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GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of October 3, 2005

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,100,000
Baguio Country Club	550,000	520,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	50,000
Camp John Hay	170,000	150,000
Canlubang	500,000	450,000
Canyon Woods	130,000	-
Capitol Hills	80,000	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	-
Club Filipino	140,000	90,000
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	110,000	90,000
Forest Hills "B"	200,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Luisita Golf "A"	350,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	180,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,300,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,175,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	370,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	650,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	300,000	-
Metroclub "A"	120,000	80,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	500,000	430,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	250,000	180,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	170,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	450,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	130,000
Rockwell	Please Call	-
Spa & Lodge	580,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	680,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	630,000	600,000
The Palms Country Club	Please Call	-
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	6,000,000

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Class C (Corp)	726,000

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SEC asks Makati court to dismiss Platinum plea

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC) has asked the Makati Regional Trial Court to dismiss a petition for rehabilitation by Platinum Plans Phils. Inc.

The SEC said securities laws and accounting rules allowed it to make adjustments in the value of Platinum’s trust fund assets and its liabilities.

Platinum earlier questioned the SEC’s authority to tinker with the values of its assets and decide that the pre-need firm was insolvent and unfit for corporate rehabilitation.

Platinum filed a petition for corporate rehabilitation on grounds that it could not meet the terms of the contracts with planholders due to financial difficulties.

SEC argued in its supplemental position filed in court that the adjustments it made in valuing Platinum’s assets were mandated under Section 68 of the Securities Regulation Code.

This allowed the SEC to amend and rescind accounting rules and regulations and prescribe methods to be used in valuing assets and liabilities.

Based on these adjustments, the SEC said Platinum’s total assets of P2.95 billion as of Dec. 31, 2004 were not enough to cover its liabilities of P3.24 billion, rendering it insolvent.

SEC’s adjustments claimed Platinum overstated its assets by P1.02 billion and understated its liabilities by P130.66 million.

On the other hand, Platinum claimed that its total assets of P3.975 billion, consisting of trust funds, property and cash, were enough to settle liabilities worth P3.11 billion.

The SEC argued that Platinum’s trust fund was just worth P126.7 million contrary to the company’s claim of P178.09 million.

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000/1,250,000*	1,000,000
Alta Vista Corp.	-	300,000
Baguio Country Club	550,000	-
Calatagan Golf	40,000	-
Camp John Hay	170,000	140,000
Canlubang Golf	-	450,000
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	80,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	-
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	400,000	-
Club Filipino	Pls. Call	90,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	190,000/Pls. Call**	150,000/250,000*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	110,000/200,000*	-
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	11,300,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	-
Manila Polo	2,150,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	360,000	360,000/650,000*
Makati Sports Club	-	180,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	-
Mimosa C2/C3*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Mt. Malarayat A	220,000	180,000
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/Pls. Call*	150,000/350,000**
Puerto Azul	Pls. Call	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/250,000**	120,000*
Rockwell Leisure Club*	Pls. Call	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/C**	70,000/150,000**	-
Spa & Lodge	550,000	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	1,100,000/1,600,000*
Subic Golf	Pls. Call	-
Subic Yacht Club	Pls. Call	-
The Palms Country Club	500,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	-
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	Pls. Call	-
Valley Golf	200,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	120,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,400,000	-

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1st Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health Forum in the Philippines

organized by the
Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPhil)
in coordination with the
Department of Health (DOH)
and the
Philippine Chamber of the Pharmaceutical Industry, Inc. (PCPI)
with support from the
World Health Organization (WHO)
and
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
October 20-21, 2005 Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City, Philippines

Who should register:

- **Pharmaceutical Companies, NGOs in the IP and health sectors, Academe, R&D Institutions, Lawyers and IP Practitioners (with MCLE credit for lawyers)**

Registration Fee: (includes kit and meals for 2 days)

- **Local Participants: P10,000.00**
- **International Participants: US$ 200.00**

For more information, please contact the Intellectual Property Office, 351 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City 1200, at Tel. No. 752-5450 loc. 608, emails dittb@ipophil.gov.ph or mail@ipophil.gov.ph, website: www.ipophil.gov.ph or the Philippine Chamber of the Pharmaceutical Industry, Inc. (PCPI) at Unit 404 Jovan Condominium, 600 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, Telefax No. 535-4835, email: info@pcpi-org.com, website: www.pcpi-org.com

BOI OKs 2 deals worth ₱297M

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS has extended tax incentives to two projects worth P296.7 million.

One of the projects involves the P134.5-million redevelopment and operation of the Carmen public and commercial complex in Cagayan de Oro City.

The other project is a P162.2-million call center that applied for pioneer status.

The proponent, Bermudan firm Thee Resource Group International Ltd., said its project would create 7,620 jobs upon full operation.

The Carmen project would be done under the Build-Operate-Transfer scheme, with the provision that the proponent, UKC Builders Inc., would operate the Carmen market for 20 years before turning it over to the local government.

TRG Philippines, on the other hand, plans to raise about P37 million of the investment through equity and about P124 million through advances from stockholders.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 30, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	14,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	1,048,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53	53	50.5	52	863,100
China Banking Corp.	640	645	640	645	880
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	1,000,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49.5	49	49.5	66,700
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	1,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	1,433,800
Philippine National Bank	32	32.5	32	32	57,400
Phil. Savings Bank	34	34	34	34	400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.75	15	14.75	15	77,000
Security Bank Corp.	31	31	30.5	31	90,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	5,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2920	2920	2920	2920	80
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	100,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	8,010
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2055	2055	2050	2050	410
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.25	14.25	14	14	24,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.95	0.96	0.94	0.95	3,230,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	755	755	740	745	17,200
Ipeople Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	1,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	1,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	29,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.95	2,751,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1690	1690	1680	1685	140,790
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	86,300
Manila Electric Co. B	21.75	21.75	20.75	21	516,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	8,040,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	2,622,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	188,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	91,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9	9	9	9	730,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	500,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	1,136,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.5	218,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	157,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	37	37.5	36	36	147,300
RFM Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	65.5	65	65.5	100,900
San Miguel Corp. B	93.5	94	91	92.5	47,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	295	295	287.5	287.5	34,140
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.85	4.85	193,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	21,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.08	4,060,000
APC Group Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	700,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	300,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.6	9.3	9.6	26,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.04	1	1	8,707,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	10,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	310,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,530,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.3	3.2	3.2	1,680,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	1,500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	175,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.2	224,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	42.5	41.5	41.5	1,742,700
House Of Investments Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	145,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.65	3.55	3.55	245,000
Medco Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	1,229,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	130,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	6,950,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	910,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	8,106,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.45	0.46	400,000
SM Investments Corp.	219	219	215	218	131,600
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	70,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	720,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.135	0.145	910,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.28	[illegible]	0.28	6,220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.76	0.78	0.75	0.78	530,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7	7	7	[illegible]	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.92	0.93	0.91	0.91	2,280,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6.7	6.7	5.5	5.5	2,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	400,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.48	1.48	1,476,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	2,020,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	[illegible]	4,600,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14.25	14.5	14		445,900
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.6	8.6			1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	[illegible]	8	8	14,685,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.92	3,940,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.165	0.165	8,560,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Empire East Land Inc	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	[illegible]750,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.26	1.26	8,795,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	[illegible]40,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.11	0.125	0.11	0.125	[illegible]000,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.2	[illegible]	5.1	5.1	1,789,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.5	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,711,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.94	1	0.94	0.97	1,140,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	88,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	532,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8	8	8	4,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	2,340,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	4,380,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	36,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	28,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.92	0.93	0.9	0.9	7,890,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.08	3,359,000
Semirara Mining Corp	26.5	26.5	25.5	26	1,300,600
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	40,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	73,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	165,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	240,000

CURRENCIES

October 2, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.830427	1.000000	56.0550
Japan	Yen	0.007349	0.008850	0.4961
United Kingdom	Pound	1.463378	1.762200	98.7801
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107022	0.128876	7.2241
Switzerland	Franc	0.642248	0.773395	43.3527
Canada	Dollar	0.709100	0.853898	47.8653
Singapore	Dollar	0.491930	0.592382	33.2060
Australia	Dollar	0.630976	0.759821	42.5918
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.202841	2.652661	148.6949
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221335	0.266532	14.9405
Brunei	Dollar	0.490477	0.590633	33.1079
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000097	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020225	0.024355	1.3652
UAE	Dirham	0.226158	0.272339	15.2660
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.204200	67.5014
Argentina	Peso	0.284880	0.343053	19.2298
Brazil	Real	0.372639	0.448732	25.1537
Denmark	Kroner	0.134037	0.161407	9.0477
India	Rupee	0.018895	0.022753	1.2754
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220331	0.265322	14.8726
Mexico	New Peso	0.076906	0.092610	5.1913
New Zealand	Dollar	0.573975	0.691181	38.7442
Norway	Kroner	0.127376	0.153386	8.5981
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013915	0.016756	0.9393
South Africa	Rand	0.130110	0.156678	8.7826
Korea	Won	0.000801	0.000964	0.0540
Sweden	Kroner	0.107217	0.129111	7.2373
Syria	Pound	0.015997	0.019264	1.0798
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025033	0.030145	1.6898
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000387	0.000466	0.0261

Jollibee drops bid . . .

From page B3

“We are on track with our overseas expansion,” Paredes said.

What has attracted the Jollibee group to India was its bustling economy with brisk mall expansions and urban development.

New Delhi, the Indian capital, has 20 million residents. Mumbai (formerly Bombay) has 15 million people. Last year, Chowking’s stores in the Philippines recorded P7.8 billion in sales. This year, the company expects sales of P8.2 billion.

Only recently, Jollibee announced buying 100 percent of specialty cakes maker Red Ribbon Bakeshop for roughly $30 million. Jollibee has yet to finish its due diligence on the cake company. Red Ribbon’s strength in the US market is seen fitting into Jollibee’s strategy to gain market share in that economy.

Alex Pomento, head of research at Macquarie Securities, had estimated in a report that Jollibee paid P16.8 million for each Red Ribbon store.

“This is almost equivalent to the capex per store of Jollibee and much lower than the market capitalization per store of Jollibee. The Red Ribbon acquisition can easily be funded by Jollibee given cash of P2 billion as of the first half this year,” Pomento wrote.

LRWC seeking bigger chunk of gaming market

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BINGO GAMING FRANCHISE HOLDER Leisure & Resorts World Corp. plans to hike its stakes in two subsidiaries to gain a bigger chunk of the booming online gaming industry.

Alfredo Abelardo "Albee" Benitez, LRWC board director, said the company plans to increase its stake in Binondo Leisure Resources Inc. to 51 percent from 30 percent.

Company treasurer Geoffrey Uymatiao said the company was also interested in increasing its stake in First Cagayan Leisure and Resorts Corp., a company that provides hosting services to Internet gaming operators.

Uymatiao said Leisure might increase its stake in First Cagayan to 50 percent, from 35 percent.

First Cagayan is tasked to monitor and regulate operations of Internet gaming enterprises in the economic zone. It has so far 14 gaming licenses and is processing 10 more. It hopes to lure the growing number of Internet bettors from China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan.

Bingo revenues account for 84 percent of Leisure's total sales at P2.2 billion last year, or a growth of 8.7 percent from year ago. Leisure's bingo operations account for 40 percent of the total market in the country.

Last year, Leisure posted a net profit of P20.3 million, a turnaround from a net loss of P53.5 million in 2003, due to improved revenues from its wholly owned subsidiary AB Leisure Exponent Inc. (popularly known as Bingo Bonanza).

CIIF group seen to post profit

By Christine A. Gaylican

WITH THE INCREASING GLOBAL DEMAND for coconut oil and its improving prices, the Coconut Industry Investment Fund Group of Companies is optimistic it would be able to turn around in financial position in the second half of the year.

CIIF president and CEO Danilo Coronacion said better prospects in the second half would allow the group to post a profit, a reversal of the P120-million loss incurred in the first five months of the year.

Coronacion explained that the price of coconut oil was now hedged $40 lower that the price of palm oil, its closest competitor, boding well for the company's exports of the product.

He noted that the free-on-board (FOB) price of coconut oil ranged from $505 to $510 per metric ton, lower than palm oil's $550 to $560 per metric ton. This means coconut oil is now more competitive in the world market.

"Foreign buyers are now shifting to natural oleochemicals for feedstock, replacing synthetics derived from expensive petroleum-based materials. This is another market that we can tap," he added.

CIIF accounts for 40 percent of the country's total coconut exports. Its assets, all sequestered, include five coconut oil milling and refineries: Legaspi Oil Co. Inc., Cagayan de Oro Oil Co. Inc., Granesport Manufacturing Corp., San Pablo Manufacturing Corp. and Southern Luzon Coconut Oil Mill Inc.

CIIF subsidiary United Coconut Chemicals Inc. (Cocochem) is a leading exporter of oleochemicals.

Cocktales

From page B3

from key officers loyal to her late parents who founded the country's first business daily.

One after another, the Businessworld managing editor, Marvin Tort, resigned, along with finance director Noel Reyes and marketing director, Noel's wife Antonette Reyes.

One bone of contention in Businessworld is that although the employees own 70 percent of the paper, that controlling block has been held and voted since day one by the Locsins, in deference to the husband-and-wife being the founding publisher-editors.

With the founders gone, the voting block has been transferred, apparently not without employee grumbling, to the daughter.

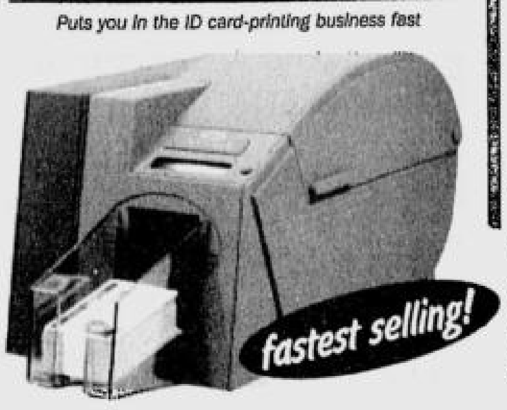
Money-go-round

- WORLD-RENOWN architect Bernardo Fort-Brescia was a recent guest of the Lopezes who wanted his insights into the proposed two new condominiums in Rockwell. Fort-Brescia's firm, Arquitectonica, counts among its fabulous accounts the planned 25-acre, 11-tower Las Ramblas condo-hotel-casino resort in Las Vegas, whose investors include Hollywood actor George Clooney.
- CRISTINA Ponce Enrile has put her San Francisco condo unit on the block, given her decision to return and live, hopefully happily ever after, in the Dasmariñas Village house that she and husband, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, consider as conjugal home.

Heard through the grapevine

SGV is getting tougher in its audit work, red-flagging the recently filed 2004 audit report of the ailing Steel Corporation of the Philippines. Shorn of accounting argot, SGV said Abeto Uy's steel company was trying to hide liabilities and losses running into billions.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)



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World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM)

Seminars-
Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC)

PROGRAM* (As of September 29, 2005):

OCTOBER 6, 2005

OPENING CEREMONIES *(Venue: Lobby, World Trade Center)*

8:00am	Welcome/Arrival of Guests
9:00	Main Program Doxology / National Anthem Welcome Remarks *by:* **Ms. Soledad F. Agbayani** *Chairperson, AgriLink/FoodLink 2005* Introduction of Keynote Speaker *by:* **Ms. Dulce I. Gozon** *Chairperson, FRLD* Keynote Speech *by:* **Hon. Domingo F. Panganiban** *Secretary, Department of Agriculture*
9:45	Opening of Exhibits *Led by:* **Hon. Domingo F. Panganiban** *Secretary, Department of Agriculture* **Hon. Ramon B. Magsaysay, Jr.** *Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture & Food* **Hon. Edgardo J. Angara** *Senator and Former Secretary of the Department of Agriculture* **Hon. Benasing Macarambon** *Chair, House Committee on Food, Agriculture and Fisheries* **His Excellency Gerard Chesnel** *Ambassador, Embassy of France* **His Excellency R.A. Vornis** *Ambassador, Royal Netherlands Embassy* *Assisted by:* AgriLink/FoodLink 2005 Committee, Co-Organizers and Sponsors FRLD Board of Directors
10:00 - 11:00	Tour of Exhibits

CO-ORGANIZERS MEETING W/ THE SECRETARY *(by invitation)*
(Venue: Seminar Room 1, World Trade Center)
11:00 - 11:30am

SEMINARS *(Venue: Hall B, Philippine Trade Training Center)*

1:00 - 3:00pm	New Innovations in Feedmilling (Micropulverizer & Pelletmill) *by:* Belmont / Muyang *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 1)* Additional Reasons Why Shipping Costs are High *by:* Distribution Management Assn. of the Phils. *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)* Bird Flu and Mycotoxins: Emerging Challenges in Asia *by:* Nuevo Milenio *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*
3:30 - 5:30	The Importance of Zinc in Piglets / Ang Pundasyon sa Tamang Paglaki / Baboy Mo, Sagot ng Eksperto *by:* Univet/Sarimanok Feeds *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 1)* Suppliers Collaborative Thrust in Supply Chain Management *by:* Philippine Institute for Supply Management *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)* Recent Developments in the Hog Industry in the Philippines and ASEAN Region *by:* Dr. Zoilo Lapuz *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*

SPECIAL EVENTS *(Venue: Lobby, World Trade Center)*

1:00 - 2:30pm	Blendina Hog Concentrates Product Launching *by:* Cargill Philippines, Inc.
2:30 - 4:00	Jectran Premium w/ Zinc/Pigrolac Hog Starter Feeds Product Launching *by:* Univet Agricultural Products
5:00	TOPIGS Phils., Inc. Soft Company Launch (by invitation) *(Venue: Skyline Restaurant, Mezzanine)*

OCTOBER 7, 2005

SEMINARS *(Venue: Hall B, Philippine Trade Training Center)*

10:30am - 5:30pm	Le' Pavilion France *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 1)* • Organic Standards & Certification Access to the European Market • Banole - Black Sigatoka Disease Prevention for Bananas • Farmstead, Milk Processing Equipment, and Implementing a Mini Dairy • Two Pillars in Veterinary Swine Practice • The Future of Free-Range Chicken in the Phils. • Company & Range Introduction / Benefits of Mixed Ration Feeding for Beef Cattle & Dairy Cows • Medication & Vaccination Through the Drinking Water • Slaughtering, Dressing Equipment, Feeding Equipment for the Poultry Industry • Vectormune Vaccines • Equipment for the Grain Industry & Feeds Manufacturing
10:30am - 12:30pm	Feed Safety of GM Crops in the Philippines: Single and Stacked Traits *by:* Monsanto *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)* Feeding Fish in Marine Aquaculture/ The Role of Small Scale Hatcheries in Mariculture *by:* Santeh Feeds *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*
1:00 - 3:00	Ultrabiotic More Than an Antibiotic *by:* Agrimate, Inc. *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)* Commercializing Backyard Pig Farms *by:* Mr. Francis Wong *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*
3:30 - 5:30	Understanding Supply Chain w/ the Supply Chain Operations Reference Model *by:* Mr. Ari Luis Halos *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)*

SPECIAL EVENTS *(Venue: Lobby, World Trade Center)*

10:00am - 12:00nn	Peiko Protection Dog Sport Demo *by:* Philippine Monduring Association, Inc.
1:00 - 2:00pm	Product Hat Parade *by:* San Miguel Animal Health Care
2:00 - 4:00	Hog and Poultry Raisers Videoke Challenge *by:* San Miguel Animal Health Care and B-Meg
4:00 - 6:00	Coooking Demonstration *by:* Magnolia Poultry and Monterey

APPRECIATON NIGHT *(by invitation)*
(Venue: Hall B, Philippine Trade Training Center)
7:00pm - 12:00mn

OCTOBER 8, 2005

SEMINARS *(Venue: Hall B, Philippine Trade Training Center)*

10:30am - 12:00nn	Agri-Products as Source in the Production of Ethanol and Cogen *by:* Philippine Sugar Millers Association *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)*
10:30nm - 12:30pm	Pre-Assessment: A Must in Organic Certification *by:* Organic Producers Trade Association *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 1)* Sea Cage Farming: Prospect for Business & Livelihood *by:* Santeh Feeds *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*
12:30 - 2:00	Supplying Fresh Produce to the Supermarkets: Case 1: Self Operated Fresh Section Case 2: Concessionaires Fresh Section *by:* Philippine Amalgamated Supermarket Assn. *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)*
1:00 - 3:00	*by:* San Miguel Foods, Inc. *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 1)* Updates on Avian Influenza Program *by:* Dr. Davinio Catbagan *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*
2:30 - 4:00	Increasing the Supply of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Through Good Postharvest Handling Practices and Technologies *by:* Postharvest Horticulture Research & Training Center *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)*
3:30 - 5:30	Integrated Corn Production-Processing Mechanization Strategies for Farmers, Integrators and Processors *by:* Dr. Arnold Elepaño *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 1)* Updates on Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Program *by:* Dr. Vic Atienza *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*
4:00 - 5:30	Converting Wastes into Profit *by:* Organic Producers Trade Association *(Venue: Seminar Room 2)*

SPECIAL EVENTS *(Venue: Lobby, World Trade Center)*

10:30am - 12:00nn	Agri-Kapihan Forum *by:* Agri-Aqua Network Int'l.
1:00 - 2:00pm	Cooking Demonstration *by:* Mega Sardines
2:00 - 3:00	Demo for Planting Vegetable on Container (Gulayan sa Paso) by: Sagana 100
3:00 - 4:00	Cooking Demonstration *by:* Organic Producers Trade Association

*Subject to change without prior notice

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Resdn'l/Clean/Furnis/Male 2PerRm/SingleBd T897-3770

BUSINESS RENTAL

CUBAO fabshp 500m^2 7257342

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46
LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342
QUEZON CITY 3730239-40
CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500
LLOYDS FINANCING CORP.

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Cyber 1 EastWood 0928-7578567

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

7 UNITS BUSES
• 0918-9183473•

CARS

HONDA

4 SALE HONDA CIVIC '96 A/T CALL 09175115612/8252213

MITSUBISHI

02 LANCER GLS 1.6L A/T
1st Own Casa-Maintained
0917-801-2260 or 931-2294

03 FB 2A/C 408T 8269588

★ 90 PAJERO ★
5 Drs 4x4 Gas All Orig. Well-Kept P275K T-7275158

Rush L300 97 Versa Van 5DR Diesel Loaded 41Tkm Well Kept 1st Owner 09282855101 Tel. 5342811 • 5782101

Rush L300 Close Aluminum Van 98 Well Kept 0928-2855101 • 5782101

NISSAN

02 PATROL 4X2 P1.170M BLACK 32TKM 09209623492

TOYOTA

★ 97 CORONA EXSIOR ★
Matic Mint Cond 1st Own 52T Kms P275K T-7275158

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2003 AUDI A6 HIGHLINE
P1.5M neg. 18,000kms A1
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CARS FOR RENT

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standard Form Number: SF-INFR-05
Revised on. July 29, 2004

Construction of the House of Representatives
Multi-Purpose Covered Court
House of Representatives, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The House of Representatives, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Construction of the House of Representatives Multi-Purpose Covered Court
Location	House of Representatives, Constitution Hills, Quezon City
Brief Description	Provision of all materials, labor, equipment, supervision and other facilities necessary and required for the complete construction of the HOR Multi-Purpose Covered Court
Approved Budget for the Contract	P23,912,870.64
Contract Duration	One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon acceptance of the Notice to Proceed
Delivery Period	One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon acceptance of the Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation-A (IRR-A). BAC activities are as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) Including Application for Eligibility	Oct. 3 – Oct. 10, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Oct. 3 – Oct. 10, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	October 17, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 24, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 24 – Oct. 27, 2005
6. Pre-bid Conference	November 7, 2005
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 21, 2005
8. Bid Evaluation	November 21, 2005
9. Post-qualification	November 28, 2005
10. Notice of Award	December 22, 2005

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the (Bids and Awards Committee-Secretariat) Office of the Procurement and Supply Management Service, South Wing Extension, c/o Mr. Dominador M. Gamboa, BAC-Secretariat Head (Tel. Nos. 931-5683 & 931-5001 loc. 7523 & 7398), upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos Only (P3,000.00) to the House of Representatives Cashier from October 3-October 10, 2005 (Monday to Thursday only before 3:00 P.M.) Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC addressed to Atty. Leonardo B. Palicte III, Bids and Awards Committee Chairman, c/o the BAC-Secretariat and dropped in the bid box located at the Conference Room, Deputy Secretary General for Internal Audit, South Wing Basement, House of Representatives, National Government Center, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the Office of the Secretariat Head.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Ten Thousand Pesos Only (P10,000.00) to the House of Representatives Cashier from October 24-27, 2005 (Monday to Thursday only before 3:00 P.M.).

The House of Representatives assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:
ATTY. LEONARDO B. PALICTE III
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 3 & 10, 2005)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

FIRST IMPERIAL UDRIVE CARS VANS 5314082, 5784077

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

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WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CAR T-8990215

CAR LOAN

1% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1% w/o taking car 7880183-84

1% w/oTaking Car 8959454

1% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

1% w/oTaking Car 7221021

1% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

1% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% Auto Easy 5344441

1.5% Auto Express 5221001

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1Hour Car Loan 9153460
2%w/o taking car 6560140

1%w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 7262780

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Almost New:TERMS-7213124

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MISCELLANEOUS

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON

Name of Project : SALE OF TWO RESIDENTIAL LOTS
Brief Project Description :
The properties for sale are two (2) residential lots covered by Transfer Certificates of Titles (TCT) Nos. N-197838 and 197839, including the improvements thereon, located at Nos. 6 & 8, Kanlaon St., Barangay Sta. Teresita, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, with an area of 800 square meter each or a total of P1,600 square meters.

Minimum Bid Price : P32,610,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act."

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting October 05, 2005 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 19, 2005; 2:00 p.m., 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.)

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before November 09, 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on November 09, 2005; 2:00 p.m. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The award of the project shall be based on the lowest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia F. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 632-832-3667
632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-551-5960
Website : www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) NIEVES T. DULDULAO
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – October 3 & 10, 2005)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

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MINI-PABX 934-8571

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DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

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MARKETING ASST not more than 30y/o prof w/ at least 1yr exp in Med Srvcs 4398340

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF UNDERTAKING A REVENUE RESET FOR THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO) AND ANY FUTURE CONCESSIONAIRE THEREOF FOR THE PERIOD 2006 TO 2010 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ALTERNATIVE FORM OF RATE SETTING METHODOLOGY UNDER TRANSMISSION WHEELING RATE GUIDELINES (TWRG)

ERC CASE NO. 2005-041RC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO) AND POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PSALM),
Applicants.
x- -x

ORDER

On September 22, 2005, applicants National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) and Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) filed an application for approval of a revenue reset for TRANSCO and any future concessionaire thereof for the period 2006 to 2010 under the Transmission Wheeling Rate Guidelines (TWRG).

In the said application, TRANSCO and PSALM prayed for the approval of, among others, its proposed: a) Regulatory Asset Base (RAB); b) Capital Expenditure (CAPEX); c) Operating Expenditure (OPEX); and d) Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC). A determination by the Commission of the said proposals leading to a revenue reset would pave the way for revised/adjusted rates to be authorized TRANSCO to charge its customers.

In compliance with Section 4 (e), Rule 3 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9136, TRANSCO and PSALM submitted together with the said application the following: a) Certification signed by the Honorable Mayor Feliciano Belmonte to the effect that a copy of the instant application was furnished the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Quezon City; b) Acknowledgment stamp receipt by the City Secretary's Office of Makati to the effect that a copy of the instant application was furnished the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati City; and c) Affidavit of Publication signed by Ms. Lourdes C. Diaz – Classified Ads Manager of the *"Philippine Daily Inquirer"* attesting to the fact that the instant application was published in its August 30, 2005 issue.

Finding said application sufficient in form and substance with the required fees having been paid, the same is hereby set for public hearing, particularly for expository purposes, on the following dates and venues:

1. October 17, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.) at Waterfront Insular Hotel located at Lanang, Davao City;
2. October 18, 2005 (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City ; and
3. October 20, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.) at Holiday Plaza Hotel located at F. Ramos St., Cebu City.

Thereafter, another set of public hearings for presentation of evidence by both applicants and oppositors/intervenors is hereby scheduled as follows:

1. November 8, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M.– 3:00 P.M.) at Waterfront Insular Hotel located at Lanang, Davao City;
2. November 10, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.) at Holiday Plaza Hotel located at F. Ramos St., Cebu City; and
3. November 11, 2005 (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Considering the complexity of the issues to be subjected to public consultation, the following procedure shall be enforced by the ERC:

- I.) All interested parties may submit their written comments/oppositions (soft copies may be sent to info@erc.gov.ph) on the application not later than November 18, 2005.
- II.) Parties who have filed their written comments on or at least manifested their intent in writing to participate in the proceedings before the date of the scheduled expository public consultation would be given priority in participating in the said public consultations.
- III.) Parties of record are not required to be represented by a lawyer but are strongly advised to have technical experts with knowledge of accounting, finance, economics, engineering and pricing issues present with them during the public consultation.

TRANSCO is hereby directed to publish, at its own expense, the attached Notice of Public Hearing at least twice (2x) for two (2) successive weeks in two (2) newspapers of nationwide circulation in the country, the last date of publication to be made not later than two (2) weeks before the scheduled date of initial hearing.

Let copies of the application, this Order and the attached Notice of Public Hearing be furnished the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), the Commission on Audit (COA), the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Committees on Energy of both Houses of Congress who are hereby requested to have their respective duly authorized representatives present at the aforesaid initial hearing.

The evidence on the actual publication of the Notice of Public Hearing consisting of affidavits of the Editors or Business Managers of the newspapers wherein the said Notice of Public Hearing would be published, together with the complete copies of the issues of the said newspapers, should be submitted to the Commission by TRANSCO and PSALM on the date of the initial hearing.

Moreover, TRANSCO is hereby directed to:

- 1.) furnish a copy of this Order and the Notice of Public Hearing to all Distribution Utilities and its directly connected customers not later than October 7, 2005;
- 2.) post a copy of this Order and Notice of Public Hearing, not later than October 7, 2005, in: a) its Main Office; and b) Branch Office/s;
- 3.) publish the Notice of Public Hearing in at least one (1) newspaper of local circulation within each of the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao region at least a week before the first set of scheduled public consultation in the respective regions; and
- 4.) undertake other possible means of disseminating information to the public relative to the above scheduled public consultation on the instant application.

In the meantime, TRANSCO and PSALM are hereby directed to submit the documents enumerated in a list herein attached as Annex "A", within ten (10) days from receipt hereof.

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City, September 28, 2005.

(Sgd.) RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.
Chairman

(On Official Travel)
OLIVER B. BUTALID
Commissioner

(Sgd.) JESUS N. ALCORDO
Commissioner

(Sgd.) RAUF A. TAN
Commissioner

(Sgd.) ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN
Commissioner

(PDI – Sept. 30 & Oct. 3, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Office Sec.23-30 yr. good Eng. Col Graduate Single,Inkg.o 890-8270

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WANTED EXPERT SALES MARKETING CALL 8090024

WANTED: SALES REP COLLEGE DEGREE W/ PLEASING PERSONALITY ENTERSKY TRADING, INC. 241-4441 / 242-2404

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estates of the late Sps. APOLONIO V. LIPIO and JOVITA G. PETIZA have been extrajudicially settled by their legal heirs as per Doc 935, Page 187, Book XIII, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Atty. J. Reine Rhea L. Buncan of Quezon City.
(PDI-Sept. 26, Oct. 3, & 10, 2005)

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OBITUARIES

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845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

Memories

"Memory... is the endearment that we all carry about with us."

The Inquirer National Classifieds brings forth the second in a series of its tabloid-sized supplement dubbed as "Memories," to be published on October 20, 2005 in time for the remembrance of our beloved loved ones.

The special pullout section is dedicated to pre-need plans, funeral homes, memorial parks and other product/services related to death care. This endeavor will give you a chance to showcase your product lines and the attributes that your services offer.

This special supplement shall provide maximum media mileage to you, our advertisers. For your wise investment, we are offering the following perks:

- Full color advertising with NO color surcharge (the 80% surcharge will be waived).
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FULL PAGE	24.6 cms x 30 cms	56,595.00
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1/4 PAGE	12.3 cms x 15cms	14,148.75
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Free copies of the Memories Supplement to be distributed at selected memorial parks on November 1, 2004.

Circulated in Metro Manila and backed by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the most read broadsheet in the land, this promises to be a most cost efficient and effective venture.

To find out more about the supplement, please contact:
Ms. Aileen A. Garcia - Tel. 912-9009, 421-1420
Ms. Adela G. Mendoza - Tel. 421-0343, 912-9011
or email at agarcia@inquirer.com.ph.

INQUIRER
The Power of Knowing

GILBERT MASCARDO

Joined his Creator on October 1, 2005

His loving wife **Beth**, children **Gulan, GJ** and **Bryan**, brothers **Lito, Gabby, Glenn** and sister **Grace**, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Hope Chapel at St. John Bosco Parish, Pasay Road, Makati.

Interment will be on October 5, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park Parañaque after the 9:00 am Mass at St. John Bosco Parish.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

Dr. Eufrocina M. Sales
D. M. D. M.P.A.

Peacefully joined the Lord
and her JORGE M. SALES, JR.
on September 30, 2005 at the age of 81.

She shall be missed by her children **JESSICA** and **KIRK** (+) and **PORTIA** and **JOJI**; grandchildren **JJ** and **A. A.** and **M. M.**; her sisters **MEDY** and **TESSIE** and **MILA** and **NIMFA** and **FE**; and in-law **RUBEN**.

Her remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels Inc., Quezon, Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 11:00 a.m. at Holy Cross Memorial Park, San Bartolome, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

On the instructions of UCPB, UCPB Leasing & Finance Corp. & UCPB Properties, Inc.

SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

Machine Tools & Equipment; Motor Vehicle; Test Gear; KOHLER Bath Tubs (unused); Imported Floor/Wall Tiles (unused); Household Goods; Miscellaneous, etc.

On: Thursday, 6th October 2005 - 10:30am (local time)

IN OVER 400 LOTS INCLUDING: -

Machine Tools & Equipment - SENFUNG L400 Roll Forming Machine ; Air Compressors; Air Dryer; Asstd. Conveyors; PCB Assembler; Asstd. Shoe Manufacturing Machinery; Soldering Machines; In-Circuit Testers; Riveting Machines; Hydraulic Cutting Machines; Asstd. Packaging Machines; Welding Machines, etc.
Motor Vehicle - RENAULT MEGANE A/T (1997) WAF-749
Imported Bath Tubs/Tiles - (30) KOHLER Whirlpool Bath Tubs; A Large Qty. Of Italian/SpanishFloor/Wall Tiles, etc.
Household Goods - WESTINGHOUSE/GE/SANSIO Washer Dryers; (150) DAIKIN Fan Coil Units (Unused); SANSIO (Unused)/CONDURA/DAIKIN/FEDERAL Split Type Air Conditioners; SANSIO Gas Range; NORTHERN HILL Electric Oven; Rice Cookers; Table Top Gas Hobs; Refrigerator; Floor Polisher; Asstd. Mattresses; Brass Chandeliers; Television Sets; Cassette Recorders, etc.
Test Gear - Asstd. Oscilloscopes; Signal Generators; Flutter Meters; Distortion Meters; Regulated Power Supplies; Voltmeters; Volt Decibels; Multimeters; Oscillators; Multi-function Counters; Frequency Counters; Audio Generators, etc.
Miscellaneous - Asstd. Flourescent Ballast; Asstd. Battery Chargers; Rubber Gasket; Styrofoam; Thermafiber Insulation, etc.

At.: UCPB Warehouse, 555 Quirino Avenue, Tambo, Paranaque City
On View: Wednesday, 5th October 2005 from 9am to 5pm and morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php20,000 (upon registration)

For further information please contact Obert Cinco at
Tel: 852 2910 loc. 109 Email: obert.cinco@henrybutcher.com

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILS INC
Rm. 102 Jolliland Bldg 673 Edsa Pasay City
Tel No.: 852 2910 11 or 854 4917-19 Fax No. [illegible]
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
METRO MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE

MOUNT MALARAYAT GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, INC.

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on 31 March 2005, an Amended Registration Statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club, Inc. reflecting therein the following revisions:

Share Type	Number of shares	Original Offer Price	Revised Offer Price
Common Gold	1,228 shares of stock	P750T	P932,741.11/share
Common Silver	1,211 shares of stock	P375T	P466,370.55/share
TOTAL	2,750 shares of stock		

The revised offer price shall cover the remaining balance of One Thousand Two Hundred Eleven (1,211) Common Silver and One Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Eight (1,228) Common Gold shares. The Amended Registration Statement is being filed for purposes of complying with the requirements of the Securities Regulation Code and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Other substantial amendments include the revision of the project cost and the date of completion of the project.

Said Amended Registration Statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business. hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI--Sept. 26 & Oct. 3, 2005)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Tigaon, Camarines Sur thru its Bids and Awards Committee invites suppliers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	:	Supply and Delivery of Heavy Equipment
Brief Description	:	Supply and Delivery of One Unit Pay loader, One Unit Grader One Unit Backhoe, Two Units Dump trucks
Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC)		Php 6,950,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility check/screening as well as the preliminary examination of bids shall use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria. All particulars relative to eligibility statement and screening, bid security, performance security, pre-bid conference, evaluation of bids, post-qualification, and award of contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR). The public bidding will be conducted in a single stage bidding. Eligibility and bid documents must be submited in three sealed envelopes in triplicate. The 1st envelope must contain the eligibility requirements, the second envelope must contain the technical proposal and the 3rd envelope must contain the financial proposal.

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable cash amounting to 0.50% of the ABC beginning September 26, 2005. Pre-bid conference will be held on October 10, 2005. Deadline of submission of bids will be on October 24, 2005 at 9:00AM, BAC Secretariat, Mun. Hall, Caraycayon, Tigaon, Camarines Sur. The eligibility check and bid opening is scheduled on October 24, 2005 at 2:00P.M. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Mun. Bldg, Caraycayon, Tigaon, Camarines Sur. Post qualification and inspection of heavy equipment will be made not later than November 3, 2005.

The LGU- Tigaon, Camarines Sur assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids. It also reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) DOMINGO DANILO B. PENAFLOR
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 26 & Oct. 3, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF UNDERTAKING A REVENUE RESET FOR THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO) AND ANY FUTURE CONCESSIONAIRE THEREOF FOR THE PERIOD 2006 TO 2010 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ALTERNATIVE FORM OF RATE SETTING METHODOLOGY UNDER TRANSMISSION WHEELING RATE GUIDELINES (TWRG)

ERC CASE N0. 2005-041RC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO) AND POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PSALM),
Applicants.
x------------------------------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicants National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) and Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) on September 22, 2005 of an application for approval of a revenue reset for TRANSCO and any future concessionaire thereof for the period 2006 to 2010 under the Transmission Wheeling Rate Guidelines (TWRG).

In the said application, TRANSCO and PSALM prayed for the approval of, among others, its proposed: a) Regulatory Asset Base (RAB); b) Capital Expenditure (CAPEX); c) Operating Expenditure (OPEX); and d) Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC). A determination by the Commission of the said proposals leading to a revenue reset would pave the way for revised/adjusted rates to be authorized TRANSCO to charge its customers.

The Commission has set the said application for hearing, particularly for expository purposes, on the following dates and venues:

1. October 17, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.) at Waterfront Insular Hotel located at Lanang, Davao City;
2. October 18, 2005 (10:00 A.M. – 12: 00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City; and
3. October 20, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.) at Holiday Plaza Hotel located at F. Ramos St., Cebu City.

Thereafter, another set of public hearings for presentation of evidence by both applicants and oppositors/intervenors is hereby scheduled as follows:

1. November 8, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.) at Waterfront Insular Hotel located at Lanang, Davao City;
2. November 10, 2005 (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.) at Holiday Plaza Hotel located at F. Ramos St., Cebu City; and
3. November 11, 2005 (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments taking into consideration the abovementioned deadlines. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours or download the same from the Commission's website at www.erc.gov.ph.

Considering the complexity of the issues to be subjected to public consultation, the following procedure shall be enforced by the ERC:

I.) All interested parties may submit their written comments/oppositions (soft copies may be sent to info@erc.gov.ph) on the application not later than November 18, 2005;
II.) Parties who have filed their written comments on or at least manifested their intent in writing to participate in the proceedings before the date of the scheduled expository public consultation would be given priority in participating in the said public consultations; and
III.) Parties of record are not required to be represented by a lawyer but are strongly advised to have technical experts with knowledge of accounting, finance, economics, engineering and pricing issues present with them during the public consultation.

WITNESS, the Honorable **RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.**, Chairman, and the Honorables **JESUS N. ALCORDO, RAUF A. TAN** and **ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN**, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 28th day of September, 2005 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) MARIA TERESA A. R. CASTAÑEDA
Executive Director III

(PDI - Sept. 30 & Oct. 3, 2005)

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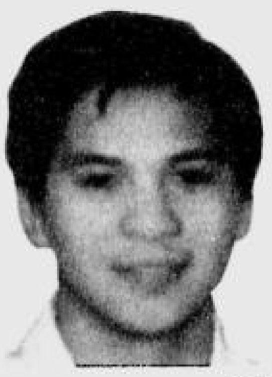
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Notice is hereby given to the public that a warrant of arrest has been issued by the **Metropolitan Trial Court–Branch 12 of Manila** against **JOEL M. PAOLO** whose picture appears herewith, in connection with **CRIMINAL CASE No. 417809-CR for VIOLATION OF BP BLG. 22**. Any information leading to the lawful arrest of Mr. Joel M. Paolo please contact: **Dulay, Pagunsan & Ty Law Offices (632) 551-0194**.

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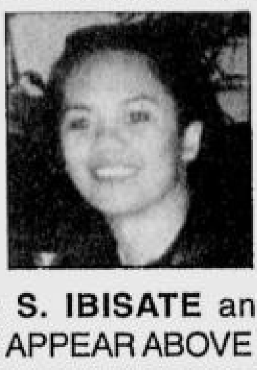

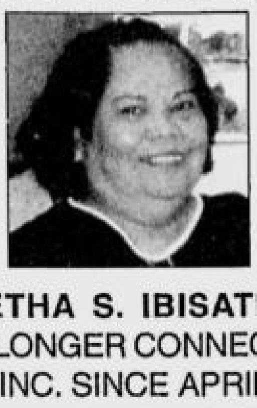

SHERLYN S. IBISATE and **ALETHA S. IBISATE** WHOSE PICTURES APPEAR ABOVE IS NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH MONTAÑES AGRI-COMMODITIES INC. SINCE APRIL 2005.

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(PDI--Oct. 3, 2005)

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Editor Leo Magno

Online community celebrates conviction of Pinoy hacker

By Erwin Lemuel Oliva
Contributor

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND REPRESENtatives of the local Internet community rejoiced with the recent conviction of JJ Maria Giner, who was charged with hacking into the networks of government websites.

Giner pleaded guilty last week at the Metropolitan Trial Court in Manila to hacking government websites, including the government portal "gov.ph." This is the first Philippine hacking case to have ended in a conviction. Judge Rosalyn Mislos-Loja sentenced him to one to two years of imprisonment and a fine of P100,000.

"I welcome this news because it proves that the E-commerce Law works in curbing cybercrime in the country and this sends a strong signal that violations of E-commerce law will not go unpunished," Sen. Manuel Roxas told Infotech.

Roxas said this case would make businesses more confident in engaging in e-commerce.

"Among those who may benefit from this development is the mushrooming outsourcing industry, for this is a clear indication that the country's laws are working with their protection in mind and that of their clients," the lawmaker added.

Giner is the first convicted Filipino hacker

CICT Chair Virgilio Peña was particularly elated by the news of a local hacker being convicted by a local court.

"It demonstrates our ability to enforce the E-Commerce Law from detection and apprehension of the criminal all the way to litigation and eventual conviction. In other words we have tested the full cycle of the justice system as it applies to a violation of a provision in the E-Commerce Law. It is truly a landmark case," Peña said.

Peña commended the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, particularly Police Superintendent Gilbert Sosa's Anti-Transnational Crime Division.

"They have proven that our law enforcement agencies have the capability to track down cyber criminals and apprehend them. More important, they were able to gather the evidence required to prosecute the violator all the way to conviction," Peña said.

The CICT chief stressed that this news will have a positive effect on the ICT industry, particularly in the growing e-services sector where cyber crime is a major issue.

"It will increase the confidence of potential investors to outsource to the Philippines. It negates the perception created by the 'love bug' virus incident, which was widely circulated around the globe," he added.

Roxas, for his part, stressed that Filipino cyber criminals will eventually pay for their crimes.

"I am confident that after this, our lawmakers would take very concrete steps to expand the law as cyber criminals are becoming more creative. As long as government and businesses make it their strict policy to protect their websites and treat various cybercrimes as a serious breach of law, then with their help, the country will have the means to fight against this growing menace," the lawmaker said.

Paul Hubbard, chief executive officer of Philippine-based YES IT Corp., said Giner's conviction is excellent news, as the company also has cases pending involving credit card fraud.

"Precedence such as this can only help our cause. One of our cases is due for Pretrial on the 19th October 2005," Hubbard revealed.

Similar to the Peña and Roxas' sentiments, businesses looking to move operations to the Philippines or set up new ones will now take note that the Philippines has the necessary laws in place, with dedicated enforcement agencies backed up by a judicial system that can convict people who conduct their crimes over the Internet.

He believes this conviction will improve business confidence in e-commerce and the business process outsourcing sectors.

Hubbard said Philippine e-commerce websites deal and collect a lot of data specifically for the purpose of detecting fraudulent transactions and hacking attempts.

"These businesses will now have the confidence to submit their cases to the judicial system knowing that the e-commerce act has been proven. The fraudsters and hackers that operate in the Philippines will now be looking over their shoulder," Hubbard said.

Despite his guilty plea, the court decided to grant Giner probation during Wednesday's arraignment, as the court felt he was a promising young man with plans of going to law school.

Giner's probation will last two to three years, government prosecutor Geronimo Sy told Infotech. Giner however will still pay a fine meted by the court, 30 days after the sentence was handed down, the prosecutor added.

"After Giner finishes the two- to four-year probation period, he would have served his sentence," Sy said, stressing that Giner's conviction is considered a victory for government.

The granting of the probation will allow Giner to skip jail time but he will still be required to report to a probationary officer on a regular basis.

The conviction of Giner is now considered a landmark case, as he is the first local hacker to be convicted under section 33a of the E-Commerce Law or Republic Act 8792.

In an earlier interview, government prosecutor Sy, the state prosecutor handling the case, revealed that Giner's lawyer had agreed to a plea bargain before the arraignment, wherein the local hacker was advised to plead guilty in exchange for a lighter sentence.

Sy said the court's decision to grant Giner probation is meant to promote "reformative aspect of the justice system of the Philippines" and spare Giner the experience of being imprisoned with hardened criminals.

Police Superintendent Sosa was also ecstatic about the news. Sosa's division gathered the electronic evidence and tracked down the Filipino hacker in collaboration with local Internet service provider Bitstop Inc., which hosted the gov.ph portal when it was attacked by Giner.

Sy reported that hacking activities seem to have dissipated while the government case against Giner was being heard.

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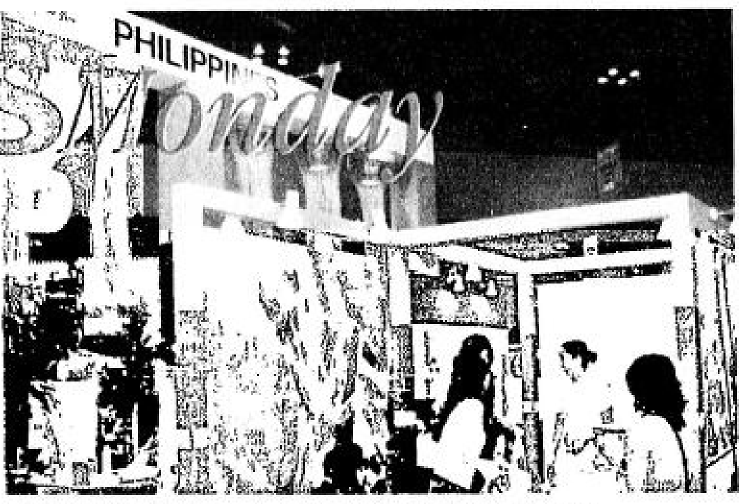
Wooing the Japanese consumer



THE PHILIPPINE booth at the JATA World Travel Fair.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

TOKYO—ALL NATIONS ON EARTH will do anything to get Japanese tourists to visit their country.

Not only do the Japanese often travel outside their country, they are also among the biggest spenders.

Thus, during the Japan Association of Travel Agents World Travel Fair 2005 held at the Tokyo Big Sight here last Sept. 22-24, 860 booth exhibitors from 117 countries pulled out all the stops to attract the Japanese travel industry.

Thailand offered travel agents a touch of its famous massage in its booth, Micronesia showcased some of its traditional dances, Germany hyped its being the host of next year's World Cup, while Australia offered free tastes of its wine.

Almost all the booths gave away freebies such as commemorative pins, shopping bags, chocolates, mobile phone charms and free tastes of traditional candies, biscuits and drinks—anything to woo the Japanese.

The JATA fair is a major event on the global travel industry's calendar as JATA is considered the single most powerful tourism and travel association in Japan.

Holding its own

The Philippines certainly held its own in Japan's biggest travel trade fair that attracted a record number of 104,204 visitors, with 36,907 from the travel trade and 67,297 from the general public.

DOT's Team Japan headed by Rosvi Gaetos of the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp. conceptualized the booth that made liberal use of materials from coconut. Contracted to execute the deisgn was Delphys Inc., which was also hired as the DOT's ad agency in Japan for next year.

Aside from having a intricately-designed booth, the Philippines brought in Rustan's Essences to provide free make-up services, and the Chi spa of the Mactan Shangri-La flew in some therapists to give guests a sample of the Philippines' own style of massage therapy using traditional Philippine scents.

Representatives from top Philippine tourist destinations and resorts, such as Bohol and Plantation Bay in Cebu ***(See related story on B2-2)*** also flew in to showcase their wares.

Island in your name

But what the Department of Tourism is banking on to attract Japanese tourists in the next year is the "An Island In Your Name" promotional campaign launched during the trade fair.

Under the campaign, 25 lucky Japanese travelers will get a chance to have one of the Hundred Islands in Alaminos, Pangasinan, named after them for a year.

Qualified to join the raffle are Japanese tourists who will go on tour packages to the Philippines from Oct. 1 this year to March 31, 2006. The 25 winners will be named in April, and they will be flown to the Philippines to visit their island for free via Philippine Airlines.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said during a briefing here that the Philippines, in cooperation with HIS, one of the biggest travel agencies in Japan, came up with the program to give Japanese tourists one more reason to visit the Philippines.

"The Japanese traveler is experienced, sophisticated, and most have traveled the world," Durano said, "so we need to have fresh, new ideas to capture their imagination and get that word of mouth advertising for us to have a better image."

The "Island In Your Name" campaign is one of those fresh ideas which will reinforce the existing campaign to market the Philippines as a premium resort destination.

The country needs the Japanese to keep on coming as Japan has traditionally been the country's second largest source of foreign visitors, according to Benito C. Bengzon Jr., DOT Tourism Attache in Japan.

"Korea has overtaken us this year based on statistics from January to July," Bengzon said, "Nevertheless, we are confident Japan will continue to provide us with large numbers of visitors, and more importantly, the tourism revenue because they are still considered the largest spenders in the region."

Japanese tourists up

The Philippines' efforts in Japan are slowly bearing fruit.

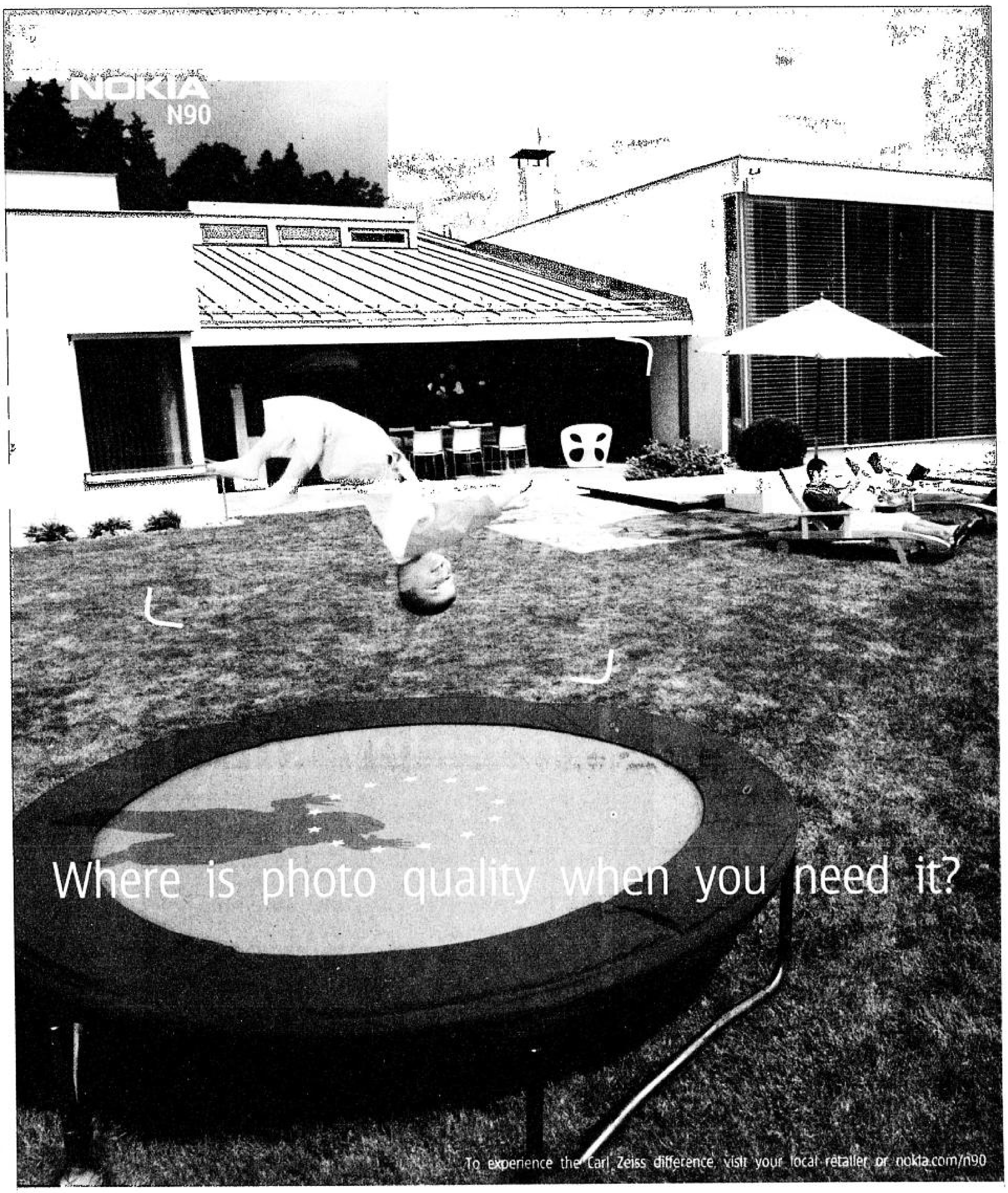
DOT data showed that visitor arrivals from Japan were up 18.4 percent last year, the highest growth rate in 10 years. Some 382,307 visitors came to the Philippines, mostly on packaged tours.

They spend an average of $20 more than the average tourist spending of roughly $90 a day.

The Philippines attracted only a little over 2 percent of Japanese tourists, and is ranked the 16th top destination, way behind the United States with 3.747 million Japanese tourists, followed by China, South Korea, Hawaii and Thailand.

To pull up the Philippines' ranking, the DOT set up a dedicated team in Japan to ensure a coordinated attack of the profitable Japanese market.

Durano is confident that with these efforts, the number of Japanese tourists will finally break through the elusive 500,000 target.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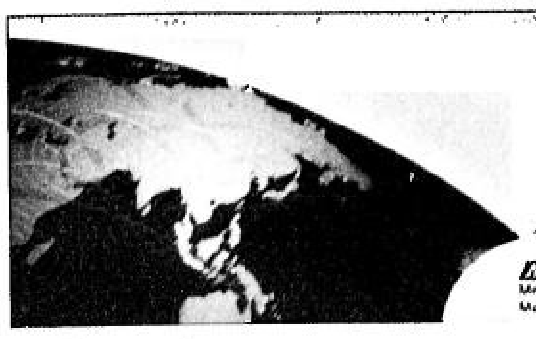

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PLANTATION Bay Resort and Spa

A fave tourist spot

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CEBU IS ONE OF THE FAVORITE DESTINATIONS of Japanese tourists in the Philippines, and Plantation Bay Resort and Spa in Mactan gets a big chunk of these moneyed visitors.

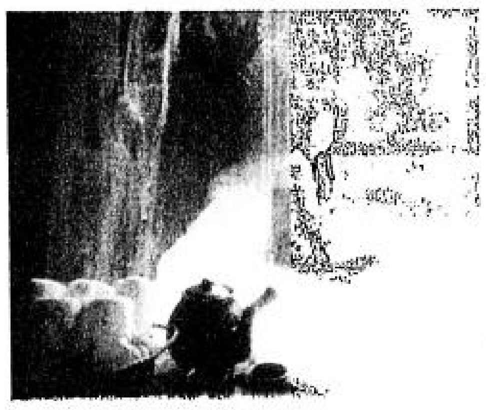
Built on what used to be barren rock, Plantation Bay is a tropical lagoon resort spread over eight hectares, and among its many attractions are the plantation-style houses that bring to life scenes from a colonial past.

It has 220 rooms, including 19 suites provided with marble bathrooms, electronic room safes, cable television with an in-house movie channel and tea and coffee-making facilities.

Plantation Bay manager Efren Belarmino, who was part of the Philippine delegation to the recently concluded JATA fair in Tokyo, Japan, tells the INQUIRER that the Japanese are among their biggest customers, along with Koreans and Filipino *balikbayans* from the United States.

Belarmino says that the Japanese consider Plantation Bay's facilities to be up to their standards. They also appreciate the many activities that the management plans for entire families.

TYPICAL plantation-style accomodations



MOGAMBO springs

There are water sports facilities for jet-skiing, Hobie cats, kayaks and paddle boats. There are also saltwater swimming lagoons, tennis courts with night lighting, golf and pistol-shooting, fishing, and even wall climbing and archery.

Also a major attraction is Mogambo Springs, Plantation Bay's spa in a mountain canyon setting that is listed among Asia's best spas by a foreign publication.

The spa offers hot whirlpools, saltwater springs and cold pool with a swim-up bar, and needle shower nook as add-ons to extensive massage therapies, body and facial treatments.

No tip policy

Guests also love Plantation Bay's no-tip policy.

Belarmino says Plantation Bay has been making a name for itself in the market for honeymooners as villas and rooms give couples utmost privacy, and Japanese and Korean families.

Peak season room rates range from $220 a night for a lagoon view room, to $500 for a two-bedroom suite and $680 for the top-of-the-line two-bedroom penthouse suite.

An expansion is in the works in anticipation of even more visitors from overseas.

New TVs:

Making sure it's worth the wait

THIN is in, even among televisions

By Doris C. Dumlao

TOKYO —THE GLOBAL MARKET FOR TELEVISION is fast evolving, fueled by rising household incomes which in turn make consumers more discerning.

Half a century since the boobtube was invented, the state-of-the-art TV screen has become wider, its panel thinner and video-audio output amazingly better.

Electronics giant Sony Corp. was thus inspired to come up with a new generation of TV portfolio that outclasses all other existing LCD (liquid crystal display) technology. Though some competitors had tested the waters much earlier, Sony wanted to make sure it's worth the wait.

The ladder that Sony built to rise past its rivals in the LCD market is Bravia, which stands for "Best Resolution Audio Video Integrated Architecture."

During the Asia-Pacific launching of this new portfolio here, Sony officials said Bravia would symbolize high-resolution TV for the digital and flat-panel era.

"With the increasing affluence of consumers and faster adoption of digital technology and high definition in this region, LCD televisions are growing in popularity and we are very positive about its growth potential," said Hiroshi Kikuchi, general manager of Display Marketing, Sony Electronics Asia Pacific.

"Within Asia-Pacific, we aim to achieve number one position in the LCD market," he said.

At present, Pan-Asia is still dominated by CRT-based products but by 2007, Sony expects LCD to exceed CRT sales and sometime in the near future totally dominate the market.

Prized artifacts ...

From page B2-4

ipino teacher," Henry II said.

Beyer passed the Philippine civil service examinations during the colonial American regime, married Banaue lass Linglayu, and settled down to build an interesting Philippine career.

Beyer helped put up the Department of Anthropology of the University of the Philippines. His works on prehistoric Luzon and the world famous terraces formed the foundation for Philippine anthropology.

Henry II said his grandfather had also engaged in the trade of relics because he accepted commissions to stock foreign museums with Philippine archaeological specimens.

But Beyer was no tomb raider, Henry II said, because of his grandfather's sensitivity to the Igorots' cultural vulnerability.

"He documented a lot about the Benguet mummies, but he never disclosed their location for fear they would be ransacked," Henry II said.

He said it was his grandfather's vocation as a museum relic hunter that gave the family the idea that an antiquities market can be profitable.

The Beyer antiquities store is not Henry II's first venture.

A business management graduate, he managed an Ifugao artifact shop in Ermita for 10 years until 1994 when a Manila cleanup drive in Ermita discouraged his American clients from returning to their block.

Henry II said he wanted to be an aeronautical engineer, but he was forc
school to take care of the ailing B
man in 1964.

Of all the Beyer grandchildre
was the only one Beyer understoo

"[Beyer] could only understan
and accent of the Banawe speake
brothers [from different mothers
gao but with an eastern Ifugao
my grandfather could not under
very well, so I spent two years ta
him until he died," Henry II said.

He said it was the most importa
of his adult life.

After Beyer was buried, the
gist's only son William asked Henr
at the Beyer-owned Banaue Vi
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The hotel burned down in 196
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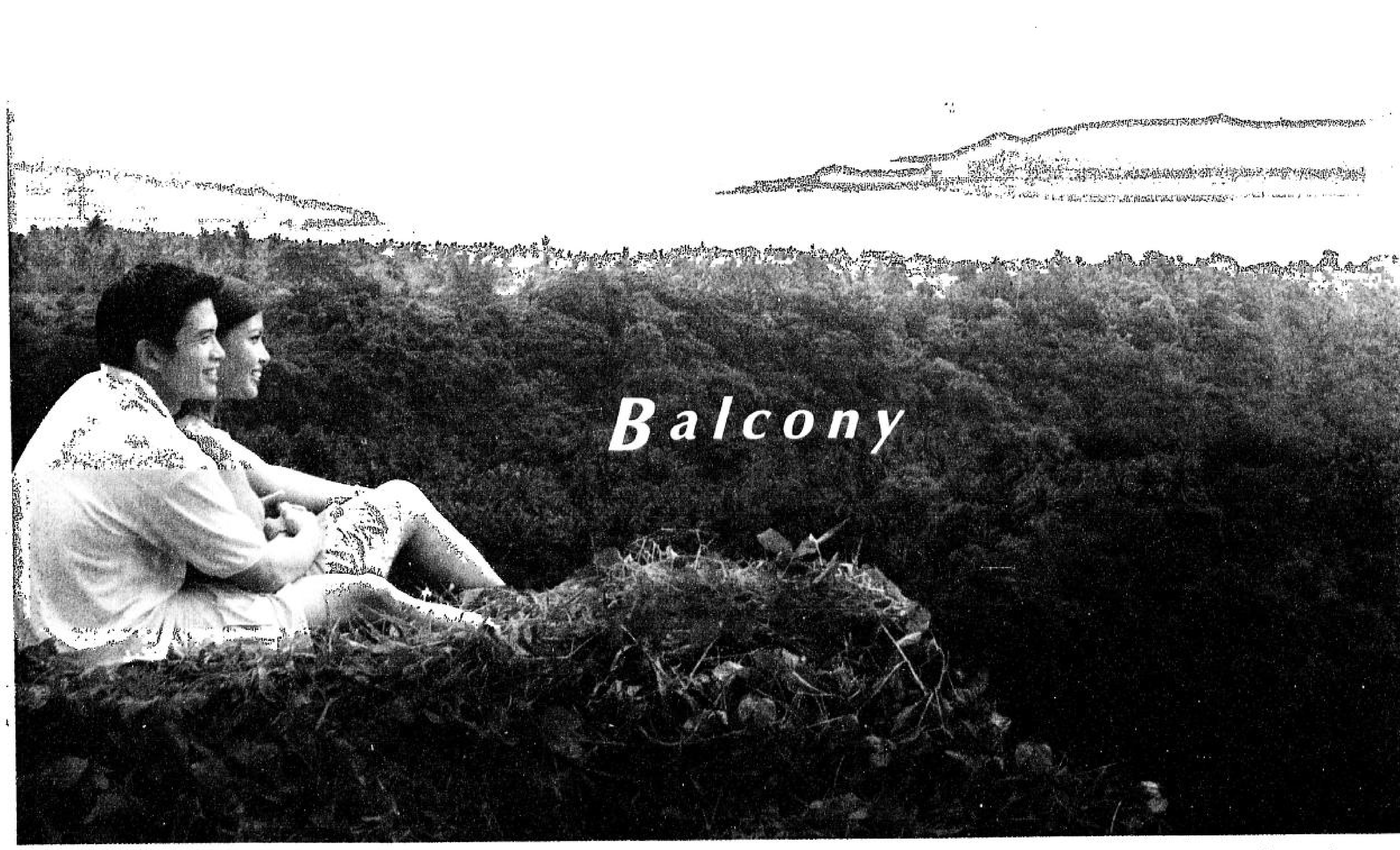

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Katsumi Ihara, executive deputy president of Sony Electronics and president of Home Network Co., said CRT is still selling well particularly in India and some Southeast Asian countries, but they expect there will be greater demand for television that can capture every detail and emotion in major events—be it a World Cup in Germany or the Olympics in Beijing.

"Sony has laid a strong foundation in display technologies since the launch of Trinitron and we are now leveraging our strengths on the latest range of LCD televisions, which utilize Sony's panels incorporating 7th generation technology," Kikuchi said.

"As Sony increases LCD television production using these 7th generation panels to meet the demands of the market, the economies of scale makes LCD televisions value for money," he said.

Redefining television

The price range for the Bravia is between $800 and $5,000.

"With other LCDs, as the screen is getting bigger, you see the picture quality deteriorating if position is bad," said Hiroshi Sakamoto, general manager for product planning department, Home Electronics Network Co.

A key technology is the new brand's unique wide color gamut CCFL (cold cathode fluorescent lamp) backlight found in its top range V-series. This enhanced feature allows wider color reproduction to reach a deeper and richer green and red gamut in LCD displays—or 30 percent better than the conventional CCFL backlights to provide higher image resolution.

The stunning picture performance is complemented by an enhanced sound quality. The V-series feature Sony's S-Master full digital amplifier and superior audio technology. With just two speakers, these televisions provide a dynamic home entertainment experience.

The advanced Light Sensor feature available in the V- and S-series automatically detects the brightness of the surrounding environment and adjusts its intensity, maximizing picture quality at all times. The top series is also equipped with the Picture-and-Picture (PAP) function that allows the consumer to watch two programs in two separate windows on the same screen.

A common feature in all three series is the Picture Freeze function which halts the screen temporarily on a broadcast program for quick jotdowns while the ongoing motion picture continues to play in the sub-window.

The series also provides easy user interface with a one-button access to essential TV controls on the V- and S-series. Consumers can watch their favorite channels and enjoy digital pictures and videos from an external source conveniently in one interactive interface.

Zooming ahead

Despite its revolutionary features, Sony vows that innovation on its LCD portfolio has not even peaked. For instance, screen size is still evolving and wider TV screens of 46 inches or even above 50 inches could be a reality in the future, company officials said.

Out of Sony's $50 billion business, television accounts for 20 percent and if Bravia becomes a global hit, it would be a much needed boost to its consumer electronics operations.

To share the cost of research and development for better LCD technology, Sony had collaborated with Samsung but the Bravia panels are based on its own specifications. Sony's LCD factory in Inazawa, Aichi, now produces a peak of 15,000 units per day for the portfolio of nine flat panel LCD televisions.

Sony is confident that Bravia will become as important and recognized as its Trinitron brand. Not limiting to just LCD televisions, Bravia is also being considered for a new generation of digital devices, in a bid to build an even stronger brand.

Execs agree innovation is key to being competitive

LOOKING FOR A COMPETITIVE edge? Don't forget the critical importance of innovation.

That's the perspective a majority of business and technology leaders share, according to a recent study. The Cisco Innovation 2005 Survey, conducted by the independent research firm Momentum Research Group, reports that business and technology leaders cite innovation as the most critical factor in their companies' success.

More than half of the 635 executives interviewed selected increased innovation—over better education, reduced wages or reduced corporate taxes—as the key to increased competitiveness. Improved education ranked second.

Innovation is considered to be more critical in the manufacturing industry than in construction, education, government or other sectors. And the more innovative respondents consider their own firms to be, the more they want to increase the rate of innovation or increase employee education.

"The economic benefits of innovation, which include greater productivity and leadership in new markets, are what will help ensure that global economies maintain their competitive edge," said Cisco Systems president and CEO John Chambers. "As countries, companies and even individuals make choices about where to invest, these results underscore the role innovation has in driving global competitiveness at all levels within an economy, from the government to education to private business."

Respondents believe that customers and senior management are top drivers of innovation—and that's not surprising, according to Jay Shutter, managing director, Momentum Research Group. "Today's increase in information availability and the emergence of global markets have driven an ever greater focus on the customer," he said.

Just as innovation is driven by certain factors, executives also cite a number of barriers to innovation, ranging from regulatory issues to market risk. A third of respondents overall chose organizational issues as the biggest obstacle to innovation—although individuals from enterprises see this as a bigger problem than respondents from small and medium-sized businesses do. For small firms, investment cost ranks as the second strongest barrier to innovation.

Many forms

Of course, it's one thing to recognize the importance of innovation, but it's another to determine which business areas make the best targets for a company's investments and energy.

Respondents expect their organizations to focus innovation on an average of two key areas over the next 12 months. But there's no consensus as to where those efforts should be focused. For example, relationships (customer, supplier, employee), product/service quality, operations and product/service development were all cited quite highly.

Improving communication and integration among key constituencies has the potential to have a significant impact on global innovation and competitiveness, according to those surveyed.

SONEDCO
SOUTHERN NEGROS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
innove
COMMUNICATION

THE SUGAR group of Universal Robina Corp. (URC) has tapped Innove Communications Inc. for their voice and data requirements. Sealing the partnership are (from left, front) URC sugar business unit general manager Rene Cabati, URC president and chief operating officer Lance Gokongwei, Globelines head Ramon Antonio Pineda and Globelines sales head Ma. Glenda Castro.

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Henry II said it was important because Beyer's death also meant the loss of his celebrated collections.

William sold Beyer's porcelain specimens for $100,000 to a private collector in the 1960s. The family sold Beyer's 40,000-book collection to the Australian government for A$200,000.

But the whole Beyer collection was decimated when government confiscated many of the specimens by presidential proclamation during martial law, Henry II said.

The government wanted the Beyer family to donate the collections for a show being produced by former First lady Imelda Marcos, in exchange for appointing William as Ifugao's first governor.

The old Mt. Province had just been broken down into smaller Cordillera provinces.

"[My father] did not accept, because he [told me] the position is elective and he will not stay there for long," Henry II said.

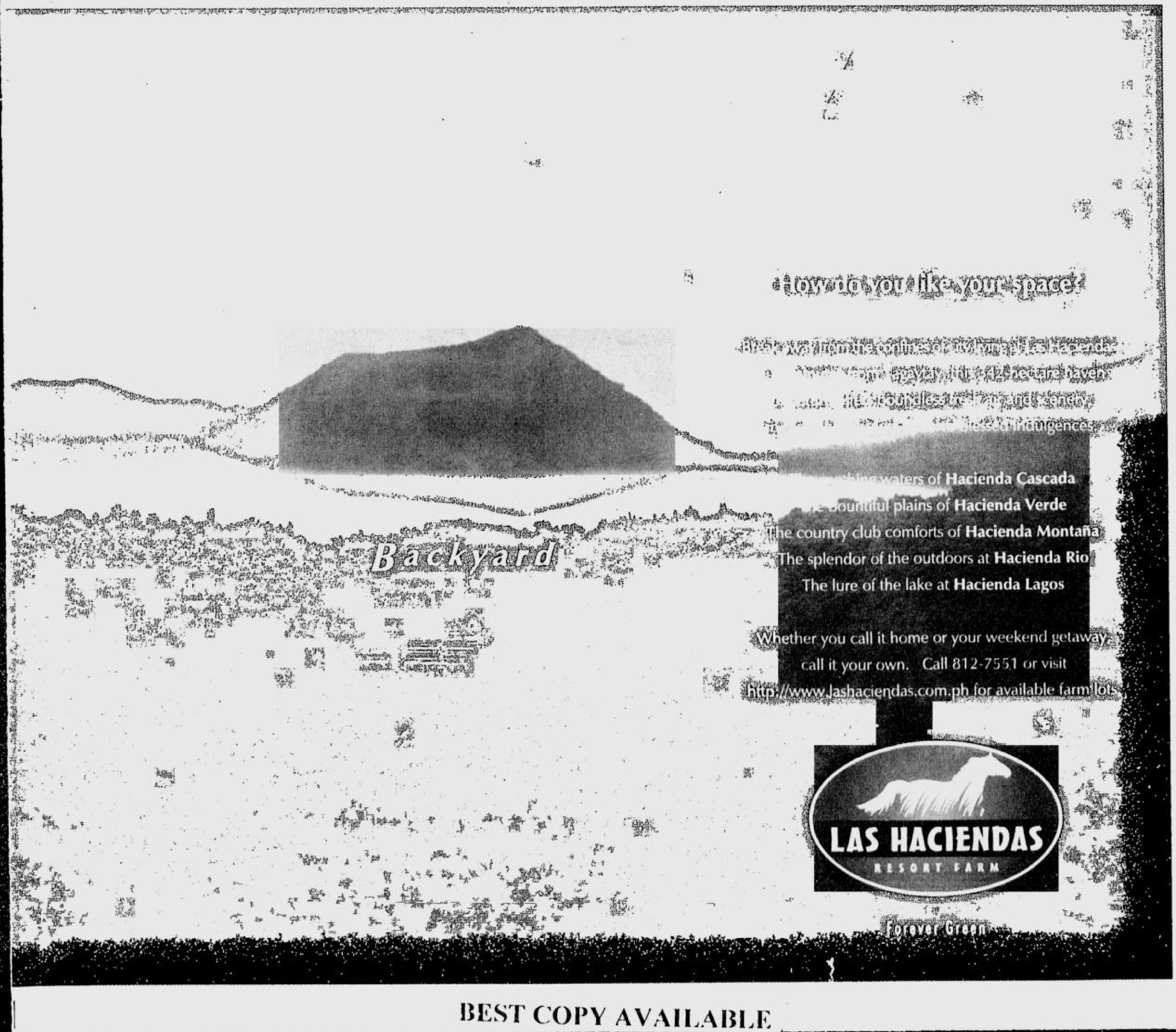
Henry II said his last inventory of the collections at the National Museum, where the Beyer specimens were stored, revealed that the most valuable items had been spirited away.

Selling what's left of the collections in the Beyer family's care may seem illogical, Henry II said.

But he said Beyer Collections, Tribal Arts and Antiquities "is a stepping stone to selling genuine artifacts constructed using indigenous technology from Ifugao, because I want to promote the knowledge my grandfather set down on paper."

The shop sells three generations worth of Beyer legacies, because heirs have started updating the collections with new find, he said.

A great, great granddaughter of the eminent anthropologist has decided to pursue an archaeological career herself, he added.



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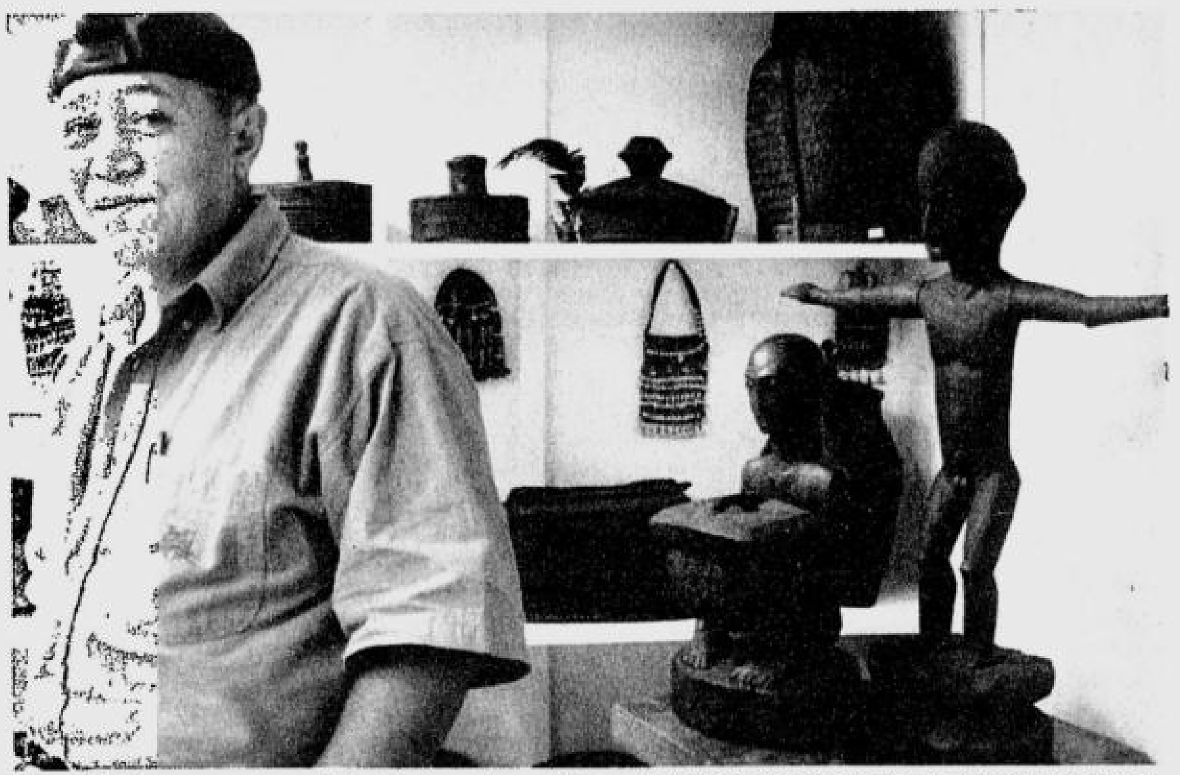
SELLING H. OTLEY BEYER'S SOUL:

Prized artifacts for sale

Text and photos by Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



Henry N. Beyer, grandson of the late American anthropologist H. Otley Beyer, shows off authentic bulols.

BAGUIO CITY—Bargain hunters won't spare it a glance, but the curious may realize that there's something out of the ordinary at the Beyer Collections, Tribal Arts and Antiquities store here.

The artifacts on sale in this two-week-old Baguio antiquities shop carry the brand name Henry Otley Beyer.

And to buy old Ifugao wooden helmets with intricate carvings or odd black shiny stones labeled Rizalites, one will have to pass the scholastic scrutiny of Henry N. Beyer II, the shop's 62-year-old owner and grandson of the late American anthropologist regarded as the country's foremost expert in Philippine antiquities.

Henry II is selling many of his grandfather's archaeological heirlooms, some practically invaluable because they are prehistoric relics dating back 10,000 years.

Buyers will have to be as worthy as the artifacts, he said, because these items carry the late Henry Otley Beyer's "soul."

Every item in the collection has a story, which Beyer meticulously documented. These artifacts have since become part of the country's priceless body of knowledge, the younger Henry II said.

For example, the trays of Rizalites stored in the Beyer family loft are actually tektites the old Beyer had uncovered from various archeological expeditions, which he named after Jose Rizal.

Tektites are believed to be meteorite fragments, and Beyer is reputed to own the world's largest collection.

Henry II said the Ifugao helmets, which bear carvings of faces, were dug up before World War II and may be 1,000 years old. An Ifugao helmet, which was auctioned off in 1988 at the Christie's in London, sold for $13,000, he said.

Henry Otley Beyer migrated to Banaue, Ifugao, home of the world famous rice terraces, after meeting some of the people who built them at the 1904 St. Louis Purchase Centennial Exposition.

"Unable to find US funding to sustain his study of Ifugao ethnography and to dig for Philippine fossils, Beyer decided to apply as a Fil-

PRIZED/ B2-2

Let growth be your promoter

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

MY GREATEST PASSION IS NOT leadership.

That may sound odd, considering that so much of what I do involves various aspects of leadership, but it's true. My greatest passion isn't leadership; it's growth. It always has been, and it always will be.

The only way to stay ahead of the pack is to keep growing. The moment you let up—the second you give in to the temptation to rest on your laurels—people who are more committed to continual growth catch up with you and eventually leave you in their dust.

I'm not saying that everyone who ever receives a promotion earns it by displaying great growth and development, of course.

Some people are promoted because they're married to the CEO's daughter, or because they're best friends with the company president, or for some other equally inadequate reason.

Sometimes these people rise to the occasion and do a good job, but more often than not, they never get past being completely in over their heads.

Read this carefully: It's okay to be in over your head because you grew into the next level. It's not okay to be in over your head because you were given the next level.

In the first scenario, you're in over your head temporarily. You grow into your new position because growth is part of your lifestyle. You seek mentors and answers, and in doing so, you just might learn enough to move to an even higher level.

When you're handed a promotion on a silver platter, however, you likely will be in over your head permanently.

You continue to lean on past experiences and luck to pull you through, and you avoid mentors who could help you grow into your new role. As a result, you just stay at that level unless—God forbid—a friend or relative gives you another undeserved promotion.

I call this second situation "advancing in position but not in personal growth." This is a terrible state of affairs—and not just for the individual involved. This scenario also is bad for everyone else in the company, and—if the non-qualified person has a very visible position—it could even have a detrimental effect on the organization's reputation among its clients or customers.

Fortunately, there are ways to avoid the tendency to advance in position but not in personal growth. Here are just a few.

1. Grow now, where you are.

Don't say, "When I get to that next level, then I'm going to grow." Do it now. Look actively for ways to expand your competencies, improve your interpersonal skills and broaden your influence—right where you are.

2. Grow those around you.

Many times, they'll take you with them; other times you'll take them with you. But you can't go together if you don't keep growing together.

3. Grow your area of responsibility.

Be a producer. Develop new ways to increase your output, improve your efficiency, and get things done. And don't be afraid to take on tough assignments that no one else wants to tackle. They might be just what you need to widen your scope of responsibility.

4. Let growth be your promoter.

If you don't remember anything else I've written in this newsletter, remember this. It is so important, I can't emphasize it enough. Don't rely on office politics, family connections, personal friendships or sheer luck to move you to the next level—let growth be your champion and your ultimate promoter.

If you were to ask me whether or not I'm going to start another company, or how many books I plan to write, or what I'm going to do after I equip a million leaders internationally, do you know what I'd say?

My answer to any of those questions would be simple: I don't know, but I'm still growing. You see, the ace that I hold in my hand isn't what I've done, where I am, who I am or the position I hold. It's growth.

If I keep growing, I will be able to build any company I need to build, write any book I need to write and do anything else I need to do. I don't need a list of career goals to keep me moving forward; I just need to keep growing. That's because my goals do not insure my future—my growth does.

And the same is true for you.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Gina. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)

MOVEMENTS

New INQUIRER adviser

INQUIRER HOLDINGS AND THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER have appointed Jay de Luzuriaga as financial adviser. Luzuriaga is also executive director of Malayan Bank, a savings bank whose principal shareholders include the owners of GMA Network. Prior to joining the INQUIRER, he was country advisor to an association of Singapore businesses. Luzuriaga has been with various firms over the past 20 years. He has handled international projects and has been based overseas. He is an alumnus of the University of the Philippines, Asian Institute of Management, and INSEAD.

SGV admits new partners

SGV & CO. ANNOUNCED RECENTLY THE ADMISSION TO THE partnership of Sharon G. Dayoan, Martin C. Guantes, Joselito E. Lopez, Aris C. Malantic, John C. Ong, Rebecca G. Sarmenta and Jose Pepito E. Zabat III.

Sharon G. Dayoan has extensive experience in the audit of companies in the manufacturing industry, specifically in the semiconductor, cement, pharmaceutical, sea transport and services industries. She is also knowledgeable in US SEC audit and financial reporting requirements. She is a cum laude graduate of the University of the Philippines.

Martin C. Guantes audits companies in the semiconductor, mining, and manufacturing industries. He is also a cum laude graduate of UP, and a top placer in the CPA examinations. He completed the Master of Business Management program of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

Joselito E. Lopez provides clients with services in enterprise risk management, internal audit, business process and operations reviews, and business fraud and investigation. He has handled engagements in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia and the United States. He is a graduate of San Sebastian College.

Aris C. Malantic specializes in the audit of companies in the financial services industry, specifically large Philippine and foreign commercial and universal banks. He is an alumnus of the University of Santo Tomas and the AIM.

John C. Ong's broad audit experience covers the manufacturing industry, specifically semiconductor, electronic components and garments as well as retail, logistics services, port operations, call centers and companies in the hospitality industry. He graduated cum laude from Ateneo de Zamboanga and completed his Master in Management degree at the AIM.

Rebecca G. Sarmenta graduated cum laude from the University of San Carlos in Cebu City and obtained her MBA from UP. She is a CPA and a certified internal auditor with specializations in business process reviews, risk-based internal audits, operations improvement reviews, business consulting, valuation studies and corporate governance.

Jose Pepito E. Zabat III specializes in audits, due diligence, initial public offerings and bond offerings, taking him to assignments in Singapore and the United States. He graduated from St. Louis University and completed his Masters in Management at the AIM.

FESTIVAL OF FESTIVALS

The CITY OF MANILA and CINEMANILA present its line-up of exciting events for this year's most-awaited festival:

Opening Night
The official opening of the festival on October 12 at the Manila Hotel

Screenings of acclaimed local and foreign films
Over seventy-five award-winning and critically-acclaimed films from different countries to be screened in selected theaters

Local Digital Film Competition
The grandest digital film festival in the country with over three million pesos to be given out in prizes

Philippine Digital Film Panorama
Featuring the Philippines' best digital films of 2005

Young Cinema Night
A short film exhibition especially dedicated to promising young filmmakers.

Awards Night
Happening at the Aliw Theatre on October 19, telecast over RPN 9

Raymond Red Retrospective
Featuring early films of 2000 Cannes Palm d'Or recipient Raymond Red

Korean Cinema Focus (Tribute to Kim Dong Ho and the Pusan International Film Festival)
Pusan Film Festival Director, Kim Dong Ho, graces Cinemanila as Korea gets the spotlight with their award-winning originals

Nordic Lights Program
A showcase of award winning films from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark

Lifetime Achievement Award
Cinemanila grants the Lifetime Achievement Award to Roger Corman, dubbed as the most prolific auteur in the international film industry

International Night
A gathering of foreign guests and the diplomatic community, with cocktails and special premieres co-sponsored by different embassies that seek to promote their homegrown films

Mayor's Day
A special day dedicated to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, recognizing his valuable contribution to the festival and the local film industry

2nd Boracay Co-Production Meeting
A gathering of local filmmakers and foreign producers to discuss future film projects

DEAR WENDY / Denmark
COLOR BLOSSOMS / Hong Kong
BETTER LUCK TOMORROW / USA
HIDDEN BLADE / Japan
THE KING / USA
SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER... AND SPRING / Korea
CLEAN / France
MY NIKIFOR / Poland
AMOR IDIOTA / Spain
PALERMO HOLLYWOOD / Argentina
DOWNFALL / Germany
LILYA 4 EVER / Sweden
THE CHILD / Belgium
THE PRESIDENT'S LAST BANG / Korea
GHOST IN THE SHELL / Japan
UNTOLD SCANDAL / Korea

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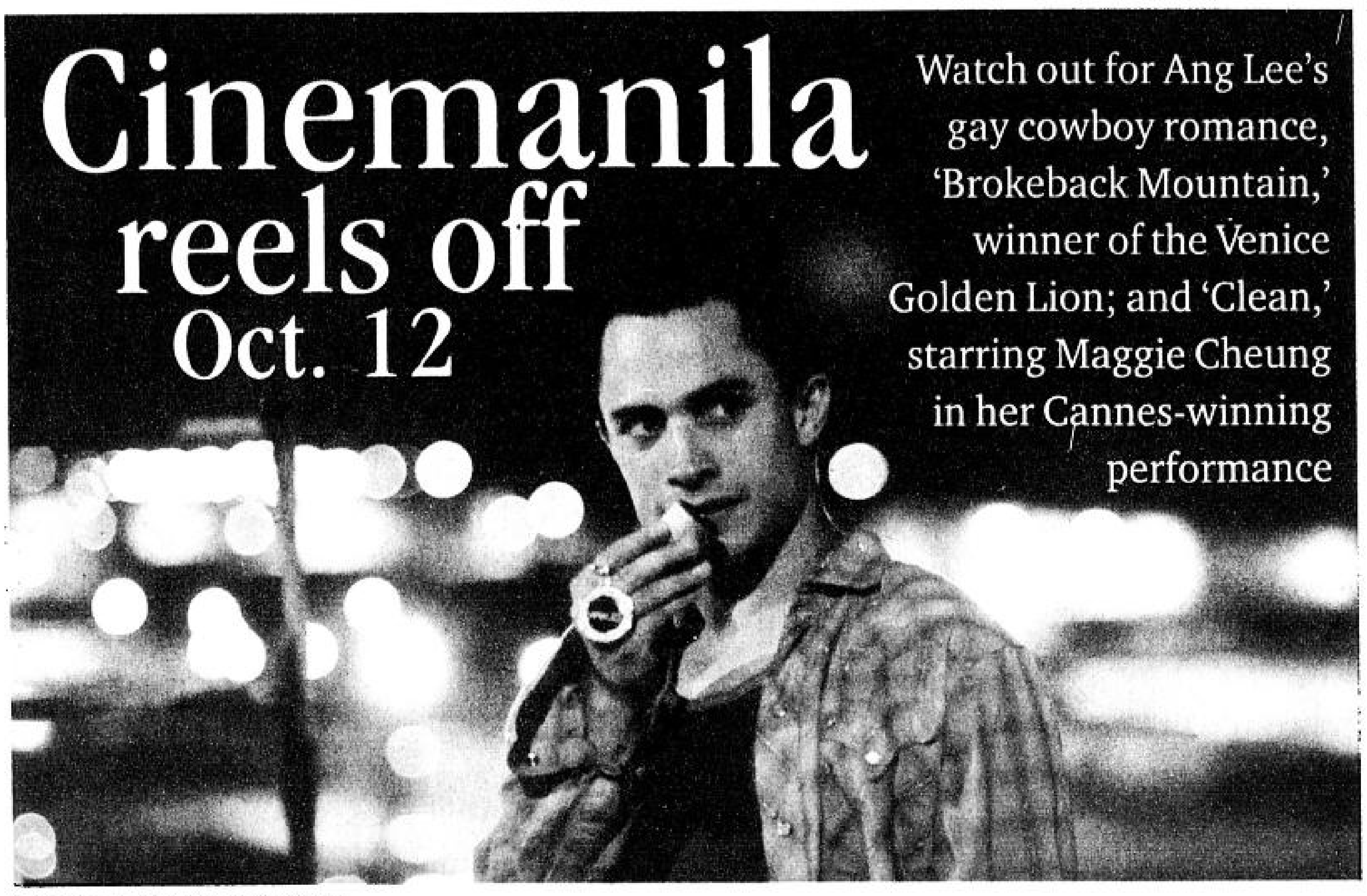
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Subsection Editor **Lito B. Zulueta**

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ◦ TUESDAY **FITNESS** ◦ WEDNESDAY **2BU**

Cinemanila reels off Oct. 12



Watch out for Ang Lee's gay cowboy romance, 'Brokeback Mountain,' winner of the Venice Golden Lion; and 'Clean,' starring Maggie Cheung in her Cannes-winning performance

GAEL Garcia Bernal in "The King"

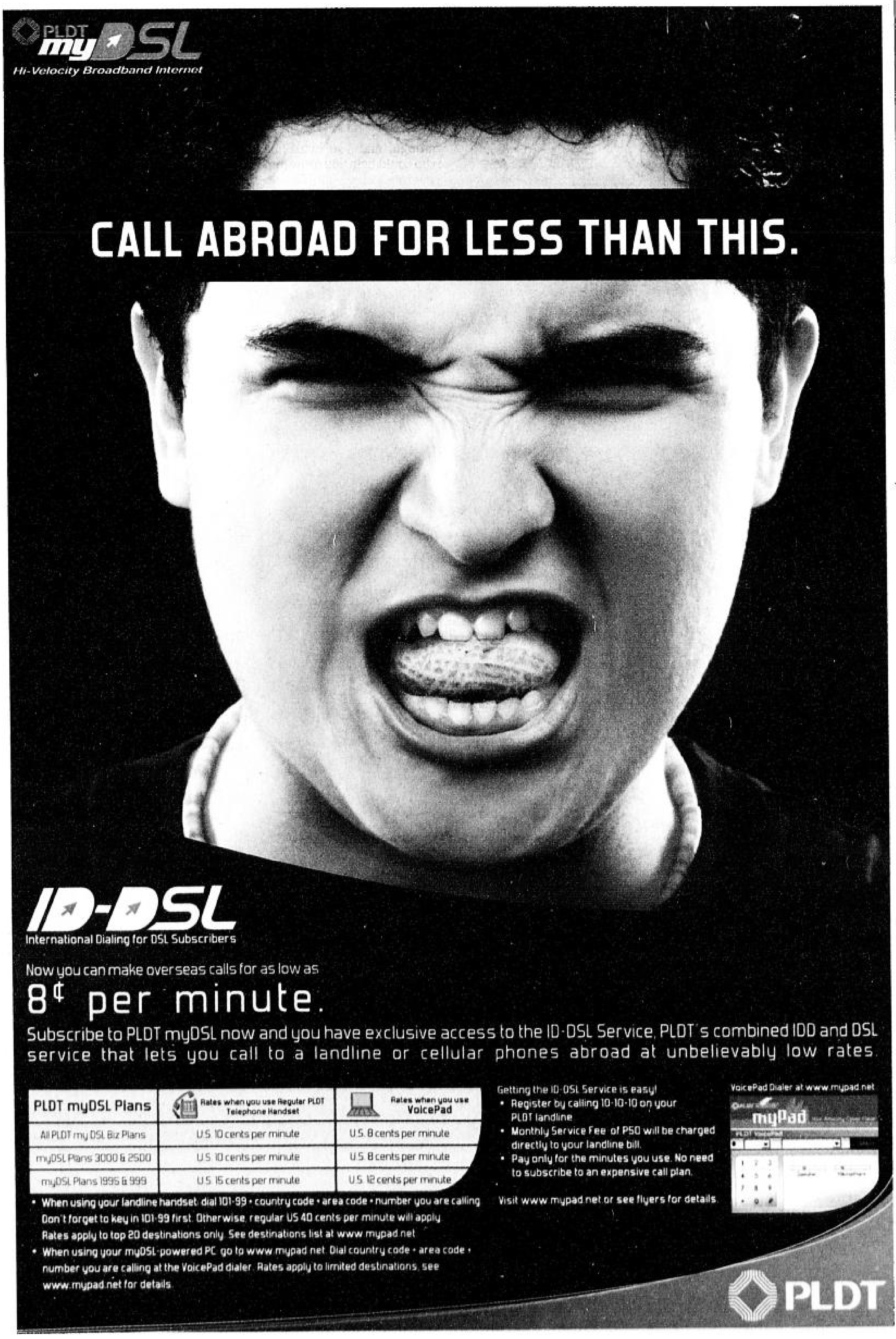
THE CINEMANILA INTERNATIONAL Film Festival, now on its seventh year, will screen more than a hundred internationally acclaimed films from different countries from Oct. 12-25.

The theme of this year's Cinemanila, which is hosted by the City of Manila, is "Buhayin ang Pelikulang Pilipino." Cinemanila, named after the independent production outfit formed by the late great filmmaker Lino Brocka, aims to promote Filipino films to world cinema audiences and world cinema to Filipino audiences. It also aims to develop new and independent filmmakers.

For this year, Cinemanila festival director Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said the festival will give more focus on a stronger local counterpart through the Cinema Indio digital film competition, which promises to award P1.5 million to the grand prize winner, P1 million to the second prize, P750,000 to the third prize, and P100,000 each to seven other finalists.

The festival will also hold the second staging of the Boracay International Co-Produc

CINEMANILA/C4



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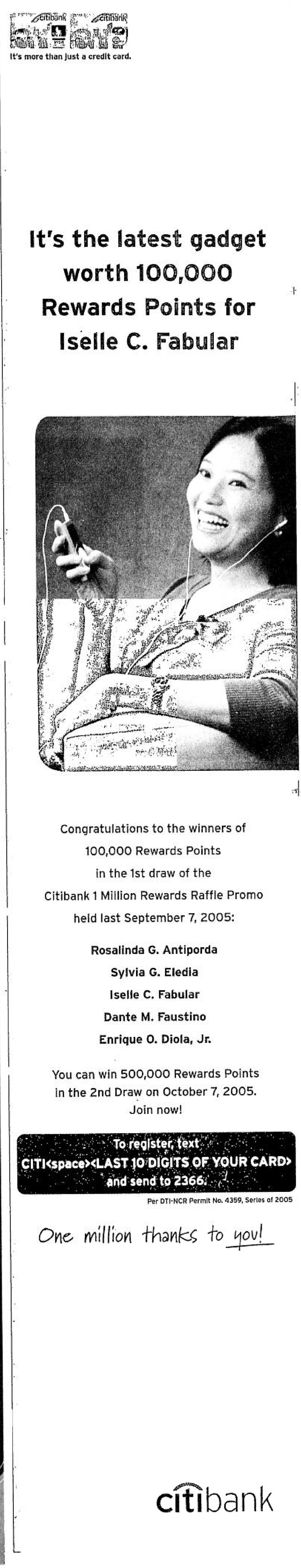

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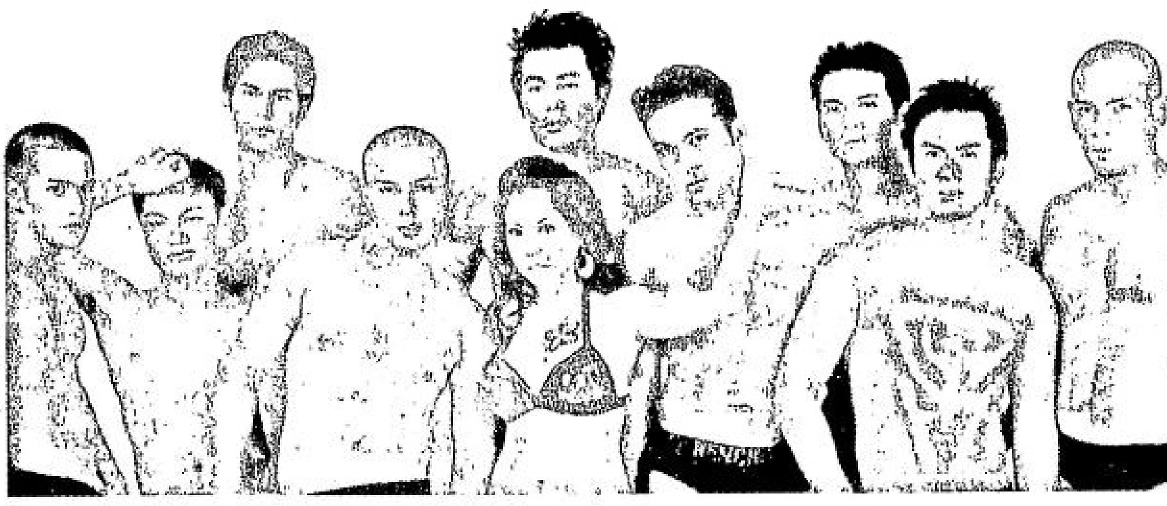
'All About Men' returns Oct. 14 at Music Museum



THE CAST of "All About Men": Luis Alandy, Ricci Chan, Paolo Paraiso, Polo Ravales, Roselle Nava, Jay Manalo, Reggie Curley, Rich Vergara, RJ Rosales and Christian Vazquez

AFTER THE HUGE SUCCESS OF LAST YEAR'S "All About Men... Penis Talks," the controversial and entertaining sexy male revue returns to the Music Museum on Oct. 14-28 with all-new material written by Ricky Lee and music by Vince de Jesus.

"All About Men 2... Penis Talks Reloaded" is headlined by multi-awarded actor Jay Manalo with sexy hunks Christian Vazquez, Luis Alandy, Polo Ravales, Paolo Paraiso, RJ Rosales, Rich Vergara and Reggie Curley. Joining them are Ricci Chan, Joy Viado and Roselle Nava.

Produced by Manny Valera of DMV Entertainment and Arnold Vegafria of ALV Events International, the revue was nominated as 2004 best musical play in the Aliw Awards. Ricci Chan won Aliw's best actor in a musical play and director Joel Lamangan as best director in a musical play.

"We are happy with the commercial and critical success of our play," says Lamangan. The feedback from the audience was very fulfilling. This time, it will be bolder in content. Last year, the theme was " I am not a penis... I am a Person!" Now, it's "I am a responsible penis."

Co-directing "Penis Talks 2" is director Mel Chionglo. Its creative team is led by musical director Vince de Jesus, with Ricardo Cruz as production designer and Ding Cruz as choreographer.

Producer Manny Valera says, "There have been strong clamors for part two of 'Penis Talks.' Directors Gil Portes and Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, Armida Siguion-Reyna, Danny Dolor and others gave glowing reviews last year. Now, we are more than glad to give in to them!"

"All About Men 2 ... Penis Talks Reloaded" premieres Oct. 14 at Music Museum. Other showdates are Oct. 15, 21,22 and 28. Tickets are priced at P2,000 (limited seats), P1,500, P1,000 and P800.

Call 7210635, 7216726, 8915610, 8919999, 3741361 or 4150373.

3RD QUARTER 'REPORT CARD': PERFORMING ARTS

Music galore!

PHILIPPINE Philharmonic Orchestra with music director Eugene Castillo KIKO KABUENA

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

IT WAS A MUSIC-FILLED period, with opera excerpts, musicals and recitals galore.

"Mapaghimalang Birhen ng Caysasay" (by Ryan Cayabyab and Nestor Torre, at the CCP's Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino) was the Taaleños' tribute to Mama Mary and Her miracles, as produced by favorite son Ramon Orlina, the eminent glass sculptor. The music by Cayabyab was sometimes stirring, at times rollicking.

As Haybing, the beheaded Chinese who is brought back to life, Cocoy Laurel was totally involved in the role and emoted with characteristic intensity. Andy Bais performed his Yoyoy Villame-like aria with verve, and young Ira Marasigan showcased a fine singing voice. Myka Torre, playing a boy, was a hit with audiences.

MYKA Torre and Ira Marasigan sing to the Virgin.

At the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater at UP Diliman, Dulaang UP's production of Floy Quintos' "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos... the Musical" was a showcase of bravura acting and singing by the players.

These included handsome hunk Miguel Castro in his finest role yet, as the Bagobo chieftain Bulan; soprano Agnes Barredo as Maude, soprano Mae Ann Valentin as Bulan's wife, Raffy Tejada as the comic relief, and Ronan Capinding who, as the grandfather, in a *bel effet du théatre*, was brilliantly transformed into a young man raging at white supremacists assaulting Filipino farmhands.

"Why, he cries like James Dean in 'East of Eden,'" exclaimed a bemused seatmate.

The zarzuela-type music of Antonio Africa was effective, and Alexander Cortez directed with brio. The play itself is important and beautifully moving. But, at a personal level, what prevented me from fully enjoying it was the inaccurate depiction of Dr. Leon Ma. Guerrero (a great-granduncle), the Father of Philippine Botany, as one who looked down on the tribals.

And Dean C. Worcester, who was accused by the editors of "El Renacimiento" (including my grandfather Fernando Ma. Guerrero and Teodoro M. Kalaw) of exploiting the indigenous peoples, is treated sympathetically by the playwright.

Classical and opera

Tenor Otoniel Gonzaga is one of the great voices in the international opera scene today. He is at his peak, which you cannot say about the more famous Three Tenors (Pavarotti-Domingo-Carreras). Gonzaga, who is from Iloilo City, proved his mettle again during a memorable concert at Philam-Life Auditorium, when his mellifluous voice, in the pianissimo passages, floated through the rafters.

> World-class tenor Otoniel Gonzaga proved his mettle once again with a memorable concert at the Philam-Life Auditorium

At the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory's Recital Hall, our foremost soprano, the attractive Rachelle Gerodias, with her stage presence and expressive face, interpreted songs and arias which showcased her versatility. She was, by turns, comic and dramatic, poignant and imperious. And she brought the house down with the coloratura show-stopper "Sa Kabukiran" (by Manuel Velez). Gerodias was accompanied by pianist Najib Ismail. The event was sponsored by UST Pax Romana, a Catholic Action group celebrating its 75th year.

The operatic event of the year was "Operanow," mounted by the Philippine Opera Company (POC) at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, with 30 singers backed up by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Herminigildo Ranera conducting. For opera lovers, it was quite a show. Soprano Camille Lopez electrified the audience, as did young sopranos Alexis Edralin and Katrina Saporsantos. Tenor Lionel Guico was dashing, and mezzo soprano Jay Glorioso all grace and flair.

Earlier, at Caffé Puccini, The Fort, Taguig City, the POC had launched what it hopes will be "the first opera season in the Philippines," as voice student Mia Protacio put it. Tenor Nolyn Cabahug sang, accompanied by violinist Ronald Santos and Joe Nicolas & the Manila Strings. Then Glorioso introduced soprano Saporsantos to guests as "a soon-to-be-major opera singer"—with reason.

The beauty of classical and standard Filipino songs was underscored anew in "Mutya ng Silangan," a concert of the Far Eastern University President's Committee on Culture and Danny Dolor's Tribung Pilipino Cultural Foundation. Featured were today's bright lights in classical singing, with personable young tenor Jun Peñaverde pitted against three vivacious sopranos: Gloria Dizon Coronel, Liza Cabahug and the young Alexis Edralin. The distinguished pianist Julie Mendoza was collaborating artist.

At PCIB's Francisco Santiago Hall, charismatic conductor Chino Toledo directed an inspired Metro Manila Community Orchestra (MMCO) with his graceful, almost mesmerizing movement of the hands, sans baton. But the real star of the evening was Austria-based Aima Maria Labra-Makk, with her astounding rendition of Sergei Prokofiev's challenging Piano Concerto #3. Without her realizing it, Labra-Makk had flung a gauntlet at Cecile Licad. Move over, Licad?

The almost poetic style of Maestro Toledo contrasts with the vigorous approach of PPO music director Eugene Castillo, as evidenced in the "Romantic Beginnings" concert at the CCP. But that imported tenor from California did not, to put it kindly, meet one's high expectations. Perhaps he was suffering from jet lag?

Theater

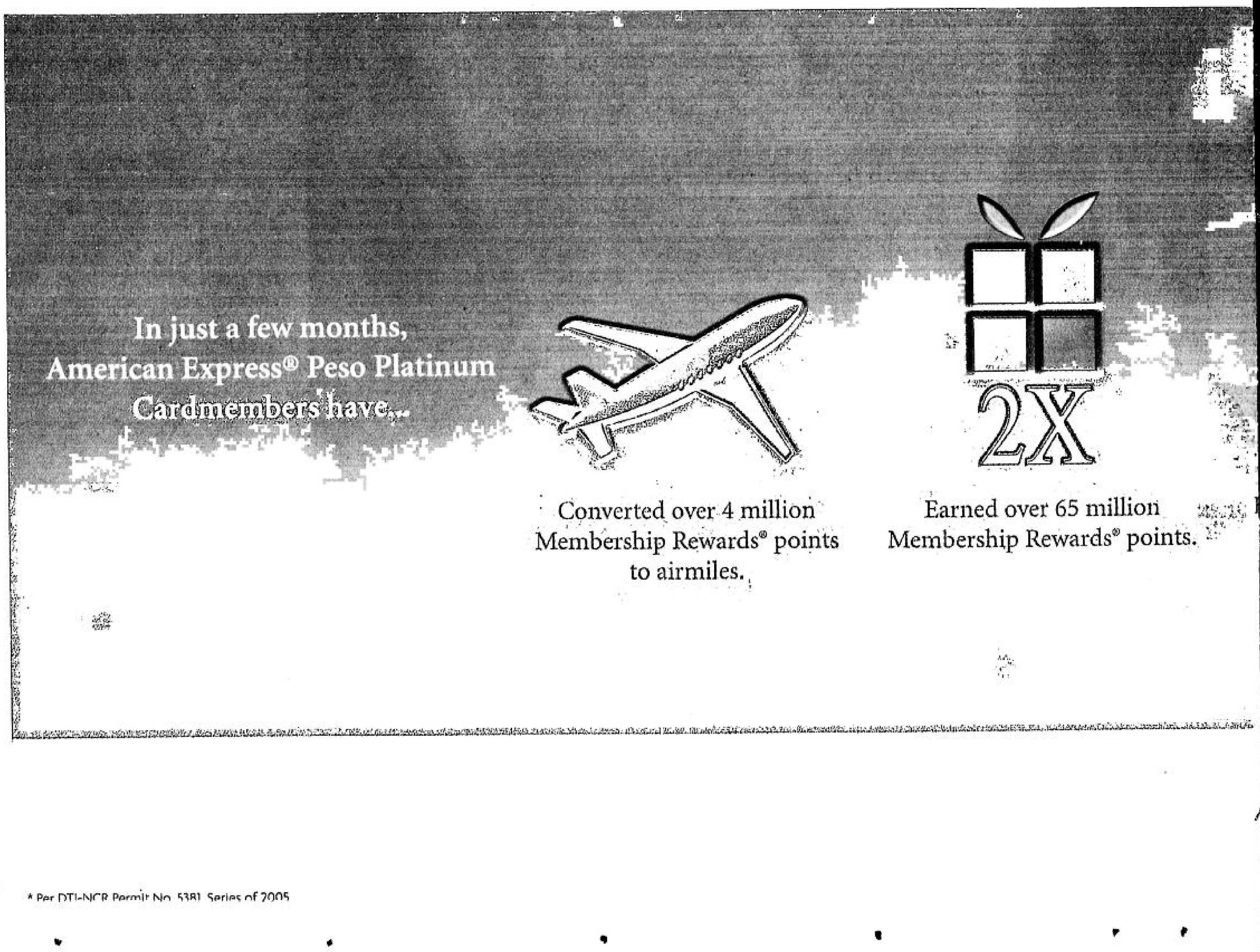
The Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA) opened its season with the musical "Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang" (by Noel Cabangon and Christine Bellen, directed by Phil Noble and Nor Domingo) at SM Centerpoint, before an enthusiastic crowd at the big theater. The production showed that the stories of Lola Basyang (aka Severino Reyes), with their moral lessons and values, still have a place in today's dizzyingly hi-tech world.

At Ateneo High eons ago, we studied Balagtas' "Florante at Laura" with an English translation on the opposite page. Embarrassing! A few years ago, however, I caught Gantimpala Theater's "Florante at Laura" with Tommy Abuel and Mia Gutierrez (as directed by Tony Espejo), and this inspired me to reread the epic poem (without translation this time).

Recently Gantimpala Theater again revived "Florante at Laura" (at St. Scholastica's St. Cecilia Hall), again in *komedya* form, with its flourishes, martial music, marches, stylized movements and declamatory delivery of the verses. It was highly entertaining, despite a peanut-gallery reference to current slogans and buzzwords, which elicited screams from the audience (students from various schools) and left young INQUIRER colleague Gibbs Cadiz genially nonplussed.

Also revived at St. Cecilia's Hall was the Gantimpala best-seller "Kanser" by Jomar Fleras (based on Rizal's "Noli" and directed by Jun Flavier Pablo and Adriana Agcaoili), enhanced by shadow-play techniques and arresting visuals. Neil Ryan Sese (who scored in the recent Cinemalaya Film Festival) and Kimberly Diaz were convincing as the star-crossed lovers, with

MUSIC/ C3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Rep's 'Emperor' romp continues

AN UNLIKELY CAST OF ANIMAL CHARACTERS continues to win children's hearts in Greenbelt 1 as the Repertory Philippines Children's Theater production of "The Emperor's New Clothes" returns to its regular 2:30 p.m. matinee shows at REP's Globe Theater at Onstage.

Although admittedly scientifically incorrect, the children don't seem to mind that a lovable pink piggy Emperor has a noisy trumpeting pink elephant for a wife, while a cocky young rooster falls in love with a sweet little lamb. It's all for fun as four mice, a peacock, a glamorous cat, a sinister fox, a furry white rabbit and two mischievous monkeys sing and dance in this adaptation of the famous story by the beloved story-teller Hans Christian Andersen.

Thousands of children and their parents and teachers have seen the show and more have signed up for the shows, which continue until December. Some of Repertory Philippines' most experienced actors are performing in the production, including Enchang Kaimo, Juno Henares, Robbie Guevara, Liesl Batucan, Bonggoy Manahan, Joel Trinidad and Rem Zamora.

Oliver Usison, Crisel Consunji, Cara Barredo, Marisse Borlaza, and Sisa Esteva are the other Rep regulars in the cast.

The Emperor's New Clothes has the support of The City of Makati, Avon, Ayala Cinemas and Globe Telecom, through special participation of ClickTheCity.com, Metrobank Fun Saver's Club, The Daily Tribune, Cetrinets Fruteez, Lane Moving and Storage, Jam 88.3, Crossover 105.1, Joey 92.3 Rythms, and NU 107.

Tickets are available for Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 2:30 p.m. Dates are still open for special shows and for group sales. Call 8870710 or visit the Rep office at C2-A, Bldg. C, Karrivin Plaza, 2316 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. Tickets are available at all Ticket World outlets, Ayala cinema booths and the REP box office.

Music galore!

From page C2

Miguel Castro in another intense role as the revolutionary. Pamela Hundana was an affecting Sisa.

Director Bert Guingona adopted a fresh (albeit traditional) approach to Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" (Repertory Philippines, OnStage), utilizing an all-male cast "as Shakespeare's audience would have seen it." Joel Trinidad and PJ Rebullida alternated as the fiery Katherine, with Niccolo Manahan as an ebullient Petrucchio.

By and large, it was a delightful romp through Shakespeare territory, with some actors playing multiple roles and cross-dressing right on the stage, assisted by colleagues.

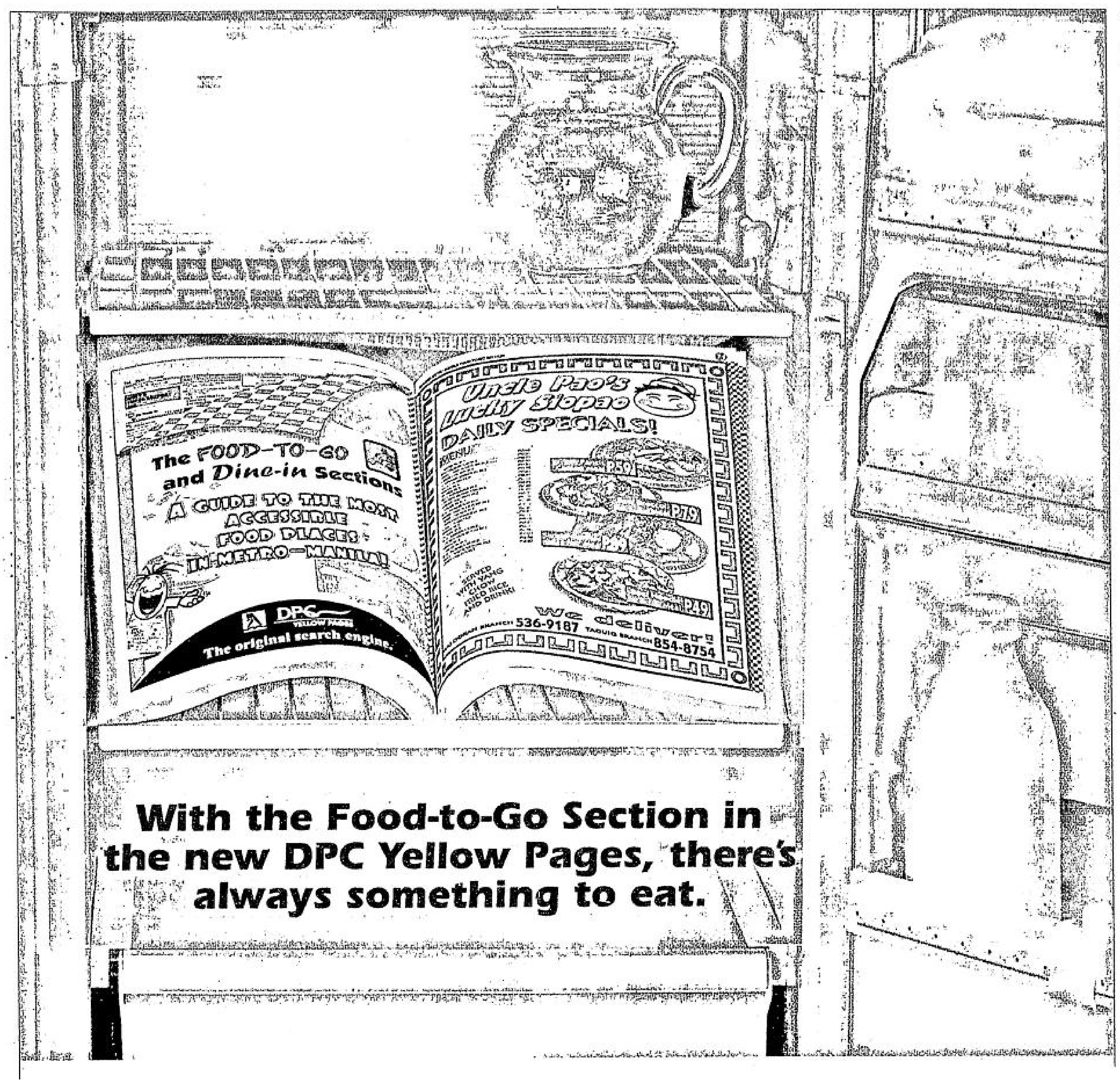
Dance

The Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group's "Noon Po Sa Amin" (at the CCP) was a capsule history of the Philippines in dance form, from "Malakas at Maganda" to Asean membership, plus a voice-over by Obusan, and historical footage. The show was entertaining, educational, patriotic and, quite often, a visual spectacle.

At the Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, ballerina Lisa Macuja gave an inspired performance as Odette/ Odile in "Swan Lake." It was one of her finest performances ever, proving she is still in her prime. Alternating with her was Christine Rocas, who won top honors (silver medal, with no gold medal awarded) in the New York International Ballet Competition. She also received the Arpino Award, which comes with a one-year contract with the Jeoffrey Ballet in Chicago, USA.

The popular Leon Ignacio *zarzuela* "Dalagang Bukid" has been recast into a "modern" but still charming work for Philippine Ballet Theater (PBT) by the much-praised US-based choreographer Enrico Labayen. Lead PBT dancers Ranilo Jaynario, Katherine Sanchez, Abigail Tan and Melvin Martinez gave justice to their roles.

Also presented at the CCP that evening were Labayen's "Cloth" and "Puirt A Beaul," which were symbolic, pulsating, even frenetic, making great demands on the performers. No wonder these two works won the Isadora Duncan Award-USA for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography.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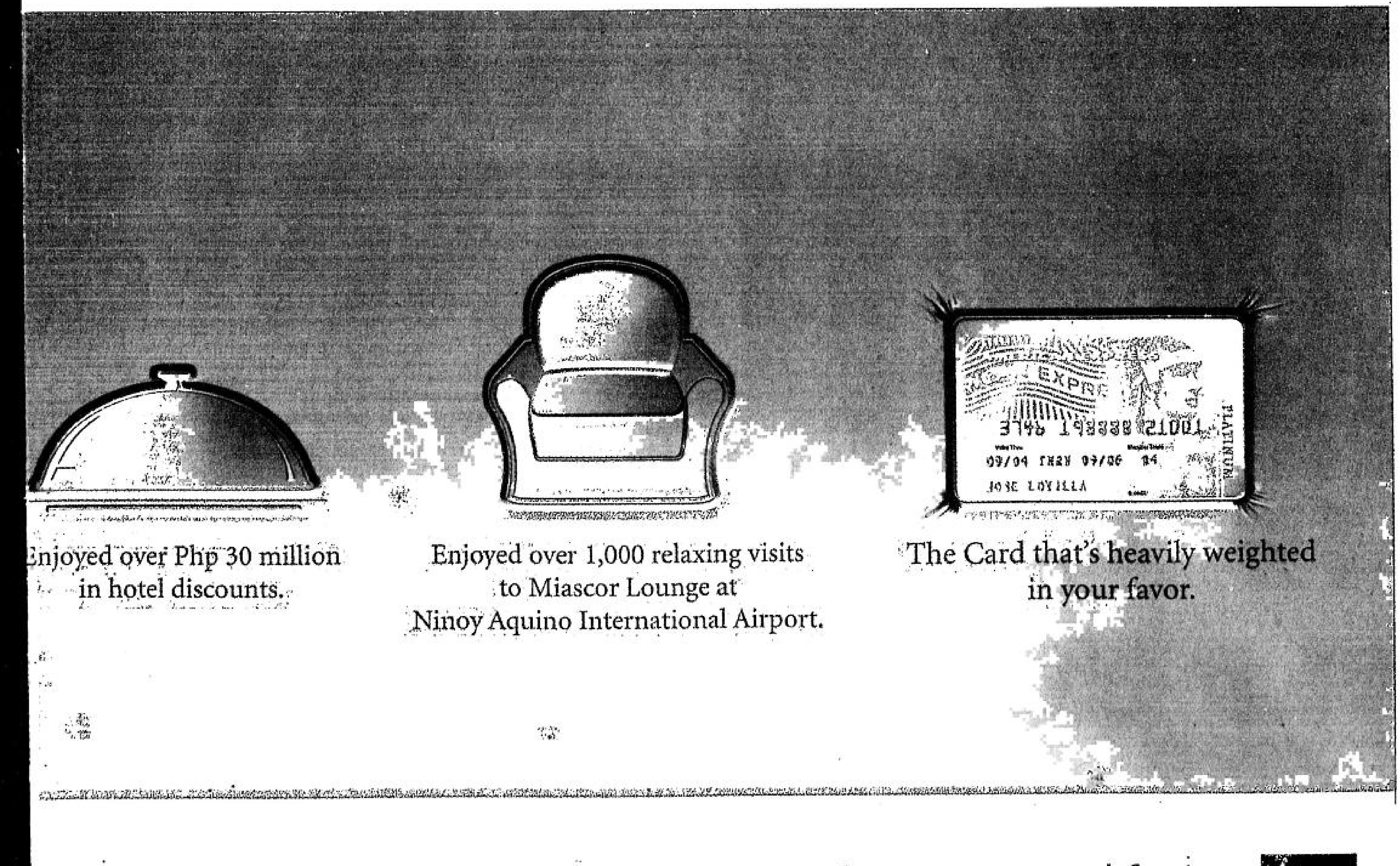
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Singapore piano prodigy to perform in Manila

CHILD PERFORMERS ARE A spectacle in more ways than one. Among a wide pool of musicians is a rather unique little wonder named Benjamin Boo.

On Oct. 22, the 8-year-old musician will mesmerize the country with the concert "Benjie Boo: Heart and Soul" at the Meralco Theater.

Guest performers include Ding Mercado and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' wife Tess Reyes. Under the direction of Raymond Villanueva, the concert is produced by God Loves Community.

Although barely 5 ft tall, Benjie cannot be ignored when he takes his place behind the piano. In every Boo performance one will feel his mastery over rhythm, balance, structure and style. Hearing his own renditions of classics like Beethoven's "Marches," Chopin's "Prelude in A Major" and "Little Raindrops," audiences are sure to ask, "Who is this child?

Boo can perform classical pieces with grace and confidence. Since he first touched a piano at 3, he has continued to inspire and impress discriminating listeners. With a string of successful performances, Boo, despite his youth is a cultural treasure not only to his native Singapore but to the whole music industry.

BENJIE Boo was invited to perform at Richard Clayderman's concert in Singapore.

BENJIE presents his CD, "Classical Ivories," to former president Ong Teng Cheong.

While others take years to master songs by classical masters, Boo plays each note as if he composed the piece himself. Even more impressive is his innate skill and knack for improvisation. He plays by ear and he rejects studying musical scores.

Boo effectively incorporates his own flair to great hits like the Beatles' "Yesterday," Elton John's "Candle in the Wind" and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?," Bette Midler's "Wind Beneath My Wings," and even Mariah Carey's "Without You."

Boo has performed fundraising concerts such as the National Endowment Fund charity dinner and the Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund.

When his album "Benjie Boogie Boo: Classical Ivories" was released in 2001, he pledged the proceeds of the sale to charity. And despite the fame and success that has come his way, Boo devotes his time leading St. Anne Catholic Church's choir.

"ROLLING Family"

Cinemanila reels off Oct. 12

From page C1

tion Meeting, the first ever co-production market in the Philippines. The meeting is supported by the Hubert Bals Fund of the International Festival of Rotterdam and the Goteborg Film Festival Fund.

The Boracay summit will grant $10,000 each to two film projects selected by representatives from Hubert Bals and Goteborg from Oct. 20-22.

From Aug. 4-Sept. 6, Cinemanila held a special tribute to "Dekalog" from the late acclaimed Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Kieslowski. It also held the Belgian Film Week ("Gilles' Wife," "My Life in Pink," "The Promise," "The Sacrament," "Pauline and Paulette," "(Li) Between the Devil and Deep Blue Sea," "Meisje (The Girl)," "Toto the Hero," "Steve + Sky," "Calvaire (The Ordeal)," and "The Kiss"); and the Cinemanga ("Appleseed," "Steamboy," and "Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence").

Cinemanila also held special advance screenings of notable films such as "Manderlay," "Kekexili: Mountain Patrol," "Daybreak," "Factotum," "Hawaii, Oslo," "Frozen Land," and Yon Fan's "Bishonen" and "Color Blossoms."

A highlight of the October festival is the tribute to the Pusan International Film Festival with the screening of critically acclaimed Korean films such as "Untold Scandal," "Joint Security Area," "President's Last Bang," "The Isle" and "Taegukgi." Cinemanila 2005 will also give a special award to Pusan festival director Kim Dong Ho on Oct. 19.

Cinemanila will also present the Asian and Philippine premieres of the Dardenne brothers' "The Child," Ang Lee's "Brokeback Mountain," Alejandro Amenabar's "The Sea Inside," Thomas Vinterberg's "Dear Wendy," "The King," starring Gael Garcia Bernal, "Clean," starring Maggie Cheung in her Cannes-winning performance, "The Hidden Blade," "Downfall," "Better Luck Tomorrow," "The Beautiful Country," "Voices of Iraq," "Moolaade," "Strings," "Amor Idiota," "One Night in Mongkok," and "Palermo Hollywood."

ROGER Corman, producer and director, will be the recipient of a Cinemanila tribute.

PUSAN
ernational Film Festi

KIM Dong Ho of the Pusan International Film Festival

Cinemanila is sponsored by the City of Manila, Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines, Japan Foundation Manila Office, Philippine Daily INQUIRER, Yehey!, Cinema One, ClickTheCity.com, Sony, NU107, TBWA, 105.1 Crossover, SM Cinemas, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Asiana Airlines, Incredible Mobile Experience (IMX), Boysen, Office of the President, Hubert Bals Fund, Goteborg Film Festival Fund, FedEx, and Metro magazine.

Visit www.cinemanila.com.ph or e-mail miff@cinemanila.com.ph.

Hospice care highlighted in play

DEATH AND VOLUNTEERISM. THESE ARE the central themes of "May Tinig ang Damdamin, May Awit ang Tungkulin" (The Heart has a Voice, Commitment has a Song). This is the entry of the Madre de Amor Foundation Inc. to "Voices for Hospice" and the celebration of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on Oct. 8.

The play is co-sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. It is based on the stories that the foundation compiled into a book titled "Hospice Stories."

The stories, mostly of cancer-afflicted patients that the foundation's hospice has administered to for the past 10 years, are woven together into five composite stories and seen through the eyes of the three narrators, the Volunteer, Darna and Superman.

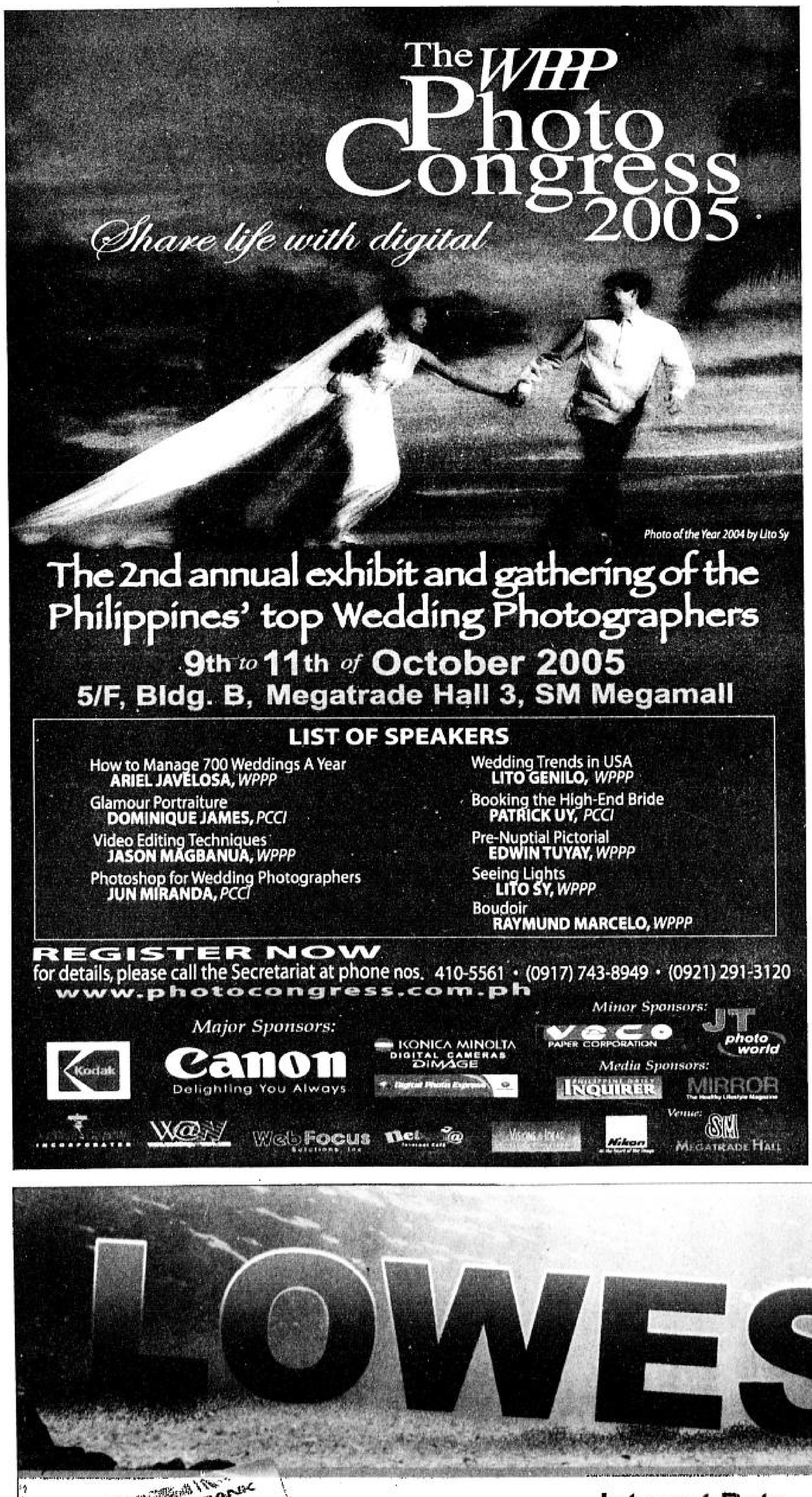
The latter two characters want to be hospice volunteers, and the play revolves around how they learn what the hospice is all about and how it started.

The Volunteer takes them into a journey—watching, meeting and interacting with Sarah, the force that started the hospice; the patient, like the abortionist, who believes she is sick both physically and spiritually yet found redemption through a different channel; the teacher who, despite her illness, has retained much her humor; the lady who prepared her own wake and other composites that offer lessons on death and life to Darna and Superman.

Along the way, the two realize it takes more than just physical powers to be hospice volunteers. Thus, the role of the volunteers is highlighted. After all, they are the core of the hospice. After all, they are the hands that weave the stories.

Joining hands with the Madre de Amor Foundation Inc. are the Pantanghalang Sining ng Laguna and the Los Baños National High School's Tanghal-Sining.

Playdates are on Oct. 8 at 6 p.m., Oct. 14, 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and Oct. 15 at 6 p.m. at the Madre de Amor Hospice Center at 9957 Amethyst St., Umali Subdivision, Los Baños, Laguna. Call (049) 5360644 or e-mail at info@hospice.org.ph.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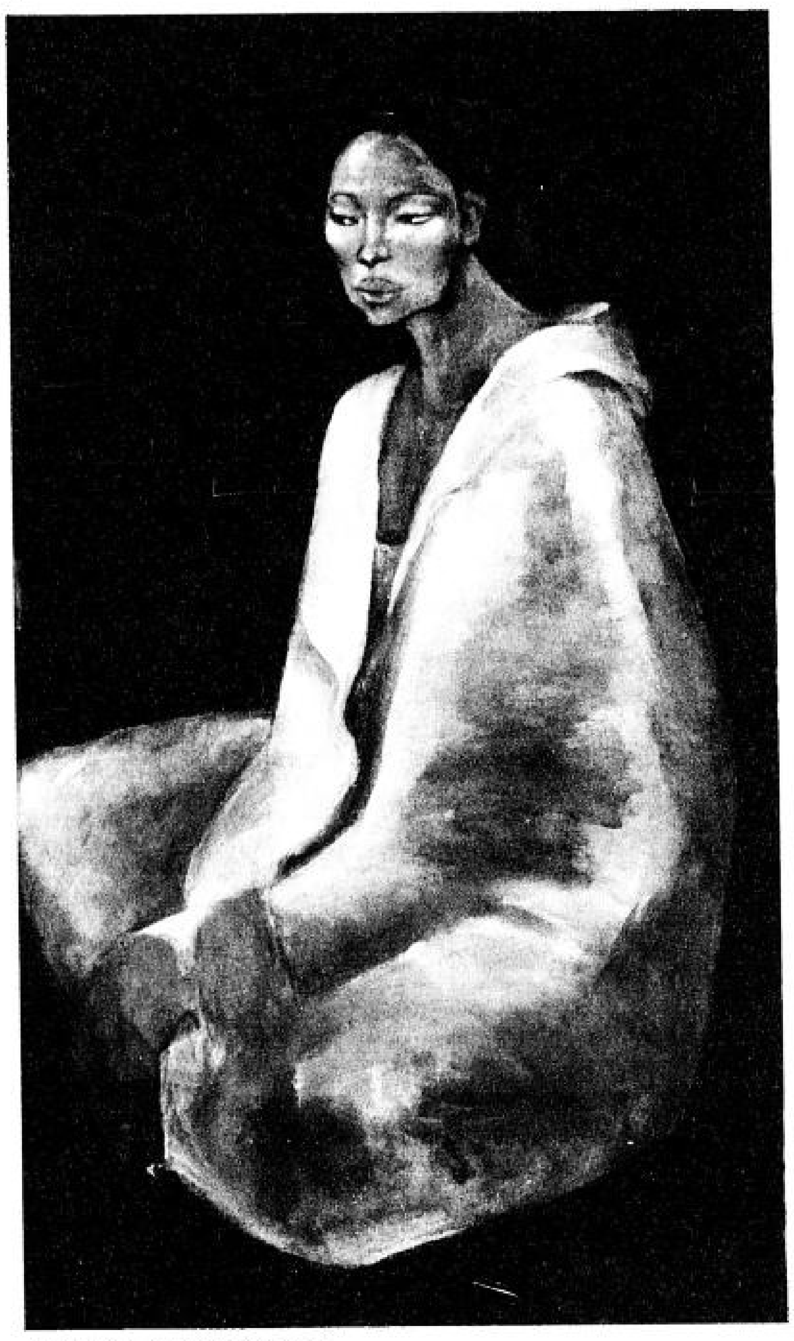


"LADY" 1, by Lydia Velasco

The new Lydia Velasco

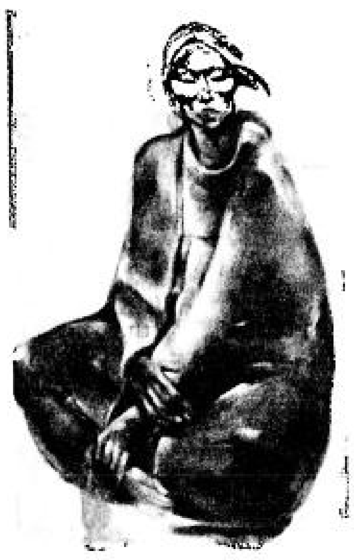
By Constantino C. Tejero

COLLECTORS of Lydia Velasco's art may be disconcerted by the latest output of the artist. From the familiar incandescent hues, her paintings have evolved into a monochrome of white, gray, or muted earth tones.

Last year she intimated about the new Lydia Velasco, a phase in the evolution of her art where she'd be painting what she'd want to without much caring about viewer or buyer. This is a partial fulfillment of that promise, and gallery-goers who have followed her art are bound to do a double take.

See her latest works in

THE NEW/ D2



"LADY" 3, by Velasco

> No more of that El Grecoesque body elongation and expressionist coloration

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The new Lydia Velasco

From page D1

"Mag-iina," the joint exhibit with her daughters Chie and Chigo Cruz, until Oct. 9 in The Crucible Gallery at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Chie comes up with numerous sculptural pieces: six plaster casts of body parts (female torso, feet, hands), and a series of 20 small bas-reliefs in red clay and dolomite.

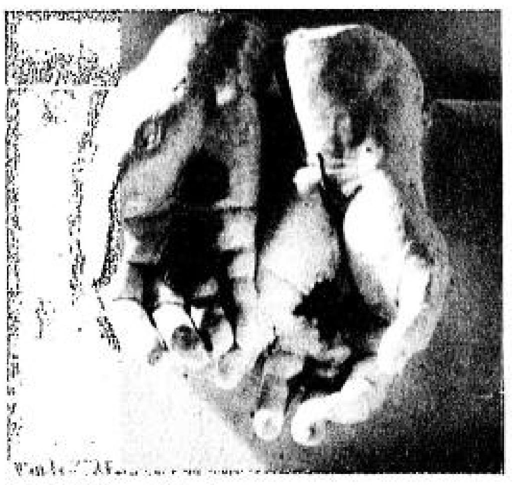
While previously she created polychrome sculptures (plaster painted with acrylic, clay with gouache), this time her pieces are in two tones only: the natural brown of terra cotta and the white of plaster.

Chigo has eight abstracts in mixed media, using textured paint that's predominantly white, accented on the sides with streaks of blue, green, violet, ochre. In some cases, the paint so protrudes from the canvas it may be considered high relief.

Velasco has seven pieces in acrylic on canvas, a series of portraits of a woman titled "Lady." The subject resembles the artist this could be a self-portrait, but Velasco confides it's actually a portrait of her mother.

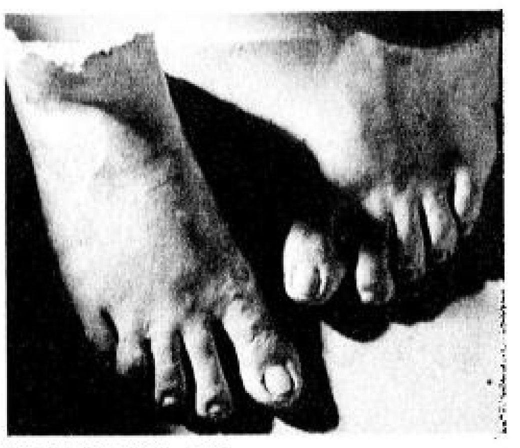
There are three notable departures here from the art she's known for. First, no more of those hot lurid hues, only achromatics and hints of warm and cool tones. Which means, no more of that El Grecoesque expressionist coloration.

"Before undergoing this show, I had a meeting with my daughters," Velasco relates. "If you've noticed, art exhibits now are too colorful. So this time, feeling *ko* we should go minimalist. White is a good color, *depende na 'yan sa* viewer. For me this is the cleansing period."


"HOPE," by Chie Cruz

Second, there are no perceptible movements, body contortions or dynamic poses. The subject is perfectly in repose, in elegant symmetry and stately poses, whether sitting or squatting. Which means, no more of that El Grecoesque physical elongation and distortion.

"Very silent *ang* pose, *parang* sculpture," agrees the artist. *"Kung gagawin ko kasing may* movement, it will clash with my daughters' works, *matalo ko silang dalawa."*


"JOURNEY," by Chie

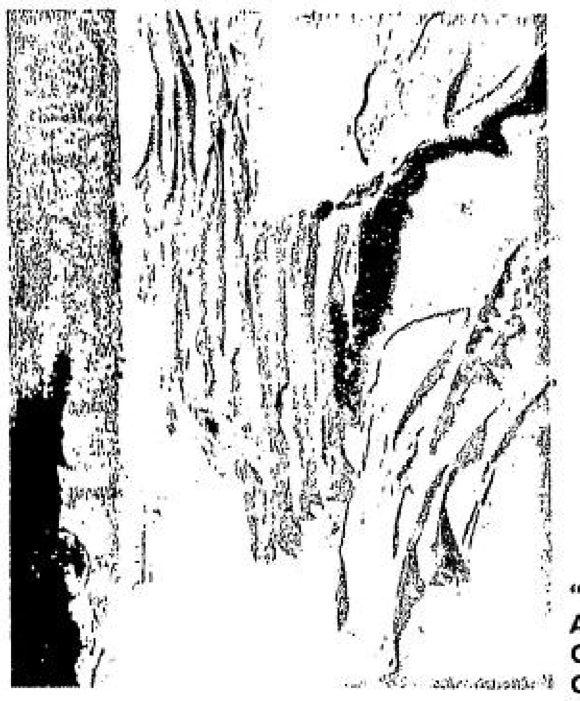
Third, the subject is clothed, in fact, fully covered with thick garments. If only for this, it is, indeed, a complete departure from her previous tropical maidens nude or in dishabille.

*"Gusto ko muna mag-*stay *sa ganitong* style," the artist enthuses. *"Masarap, e. Maganda! Ito ang para sa akin."*

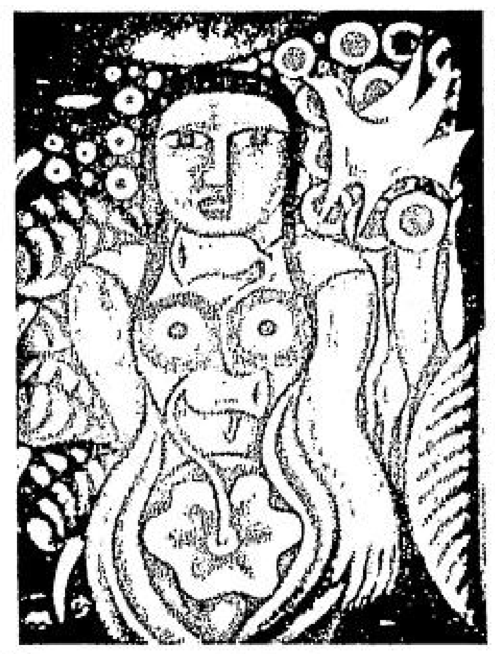
This is the second joint exhibit of Velasco and her daughters. It stands apart in that other family exhibits of artists are either an all-male ensemble (Nune Alvarado and sons, Malang and sons), or a mixed crowd (the Blanco family).

"After this, *pabayaan ko sila* on their own," Velasco says of her daughters. "They will have their own identities. For now, I'm carrying them *muna*."

THE VELASCO WOMEN: Chie, Chigo and Lydia


"ORANGES Are Not the Only Fruit," by Chigo Cruz

'Admirable Beauty' at Joaquin


"MOTHER and Child," by Mario Parial

THE UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE Pacific's Entrepreneurial Management Program, in cooperation with Galerie Joaquin, presents "Admirable Beauty," an art exhibit, on Oct, 8, at 6 p.m., featuring 60 works from top contemporary artists, including Tam Austria, Mario Parial, Nunelucio Alvarado, Lydia Velasco, Julius Limpe, Dennis Filart, Dominic Rubio, Bayani Ray Acala, Vincent Padilla, Joy Chua, and Alan Malunes.

Austria's "Dos Hermanas," a 24" x 18" acrylic on canvas, is an elegant depiction of two women surrounded by butterflies; one of the women plays the flute.

Parial, a top Filipino artist who has a work to be auctioned in Sotheby's Singapore this October, is represented by a 24" x 18" "Mother and Child," showing his signature colorful prints and stripes and gold embellishments.

The show runs until Oct. 16.

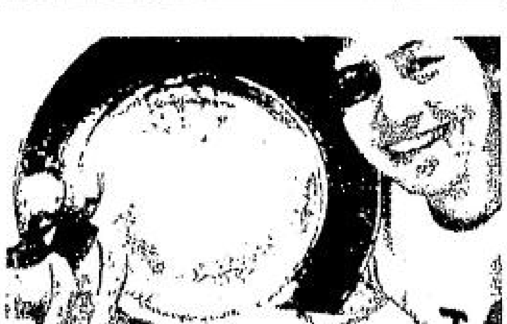
Galerie Joaquin is located at 371 P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Call 723-9253 or 723-9418, e-mail galeriejoaquin@yahoo.com or visit www.galeriejoaquin.com.

Pottery exhibit

POTTER CAMILLE DACANAY-MENDOZA'S eye for nature is highlighted in the functional stoneware pots, plates, vases, and sculptural work she will showcase in her solo exhibit at Gallery 139, Glorietta 4, 3/F in Makati City. The exhibit opens at 6 p.m. on Oct. 7 and runs until Oct. 19.

She describes her plates as "like ricefields—square, flat, green in the middle, and blue and orange at the edges," and her sculptural work "Lovers," which has honey, yellow and brown shades, as "just like the skin of wood."

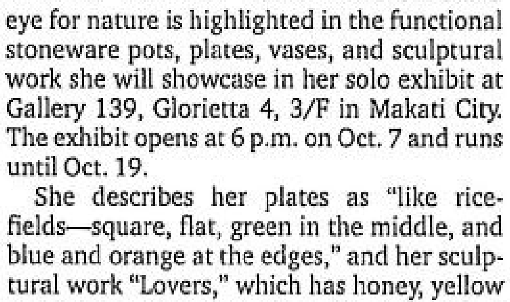
Camille acquired in 2001 a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the University of the Philippines (where she learned to do big sculptural pieces) and completed in 2002 a six-week scholarship at the Institute of Classical Architecture in New York (where she was trained to look at the "big picture," such as redesigning Battery Park in downtown Manhattan).


CAMILLE Dacanay-Mendoza

In 2003, Camille learned to fly a Cessna 172 at the Airworks School of Flying in Pasay City before enrolling at the Pettyjohn-Mendoza School of Pottery in Makati.

She now shares a studio with her husband, master potter Hadrian Mendoza, at the foot of Mt. Makiling in Calamba, Laguna.

'Charms of September' at Le Soufflé

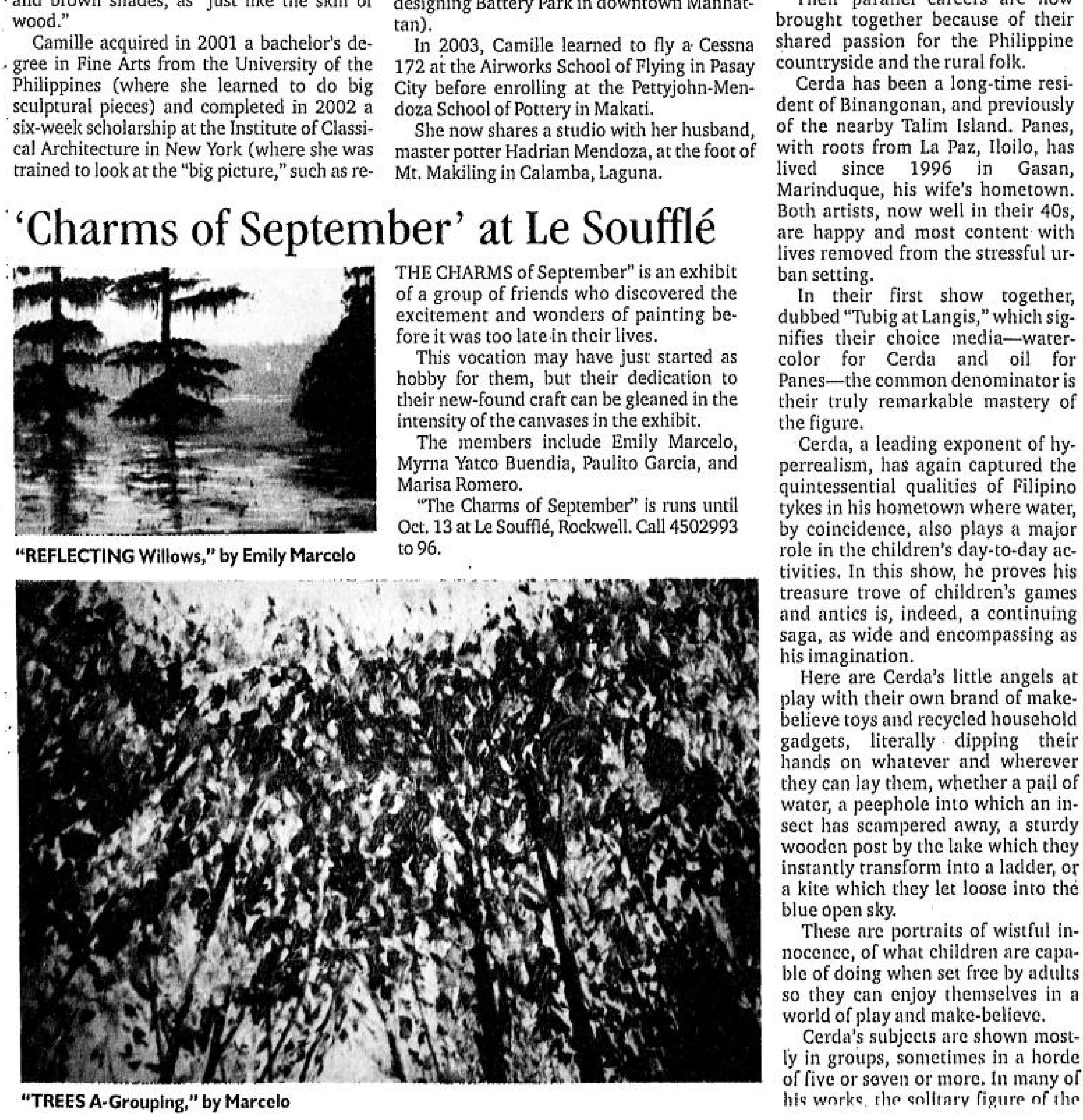

"REFLECTING Willows," by Emily Marcelo

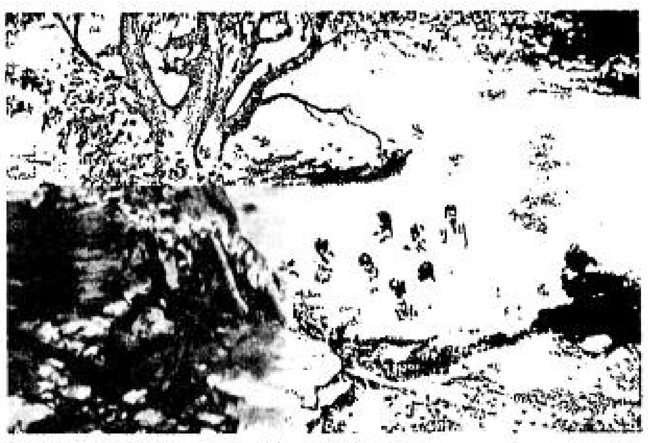
THE CHARMS of September" is an exhibit of a group of friends who discovered the excitement and wonders of painting before it was too late in their lives.

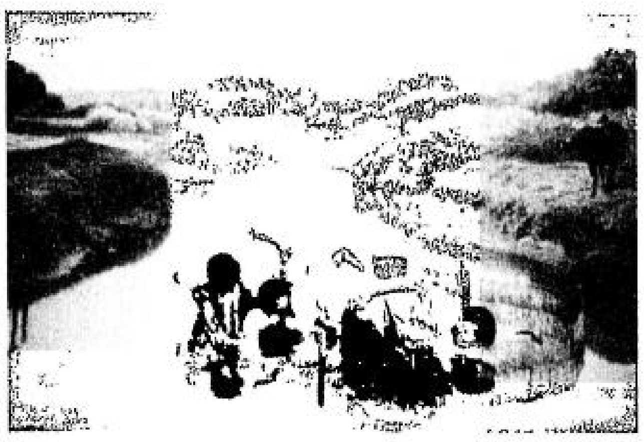
This vocation may have just started as hobby for them, but their dedication to their new-found craft can be gleaned in the intensity of the canvases in the exhibit.

The members include Emily Marcelo, Myrna Yatco Buendia, Paulito Garcia, and Marisa Romero.

"The Charms of September" is runs until Oct. 13 at Le Soufflé, Rockwell. Call 4502993 to 96.


"TREES A-Grouping," by Marcelo


"TAMPISAW sa Batis," by Toti Cerda


"NANGHUHULI ng Hito," by Bert Panes

Cerda and Panes show mastery of figure

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

RODELIO "Tot" Cerda and Rigoberto Bert Panes are resident artists of Gallery Genesis and they are working in tandem for the first time.

Cerda has had the clear advantage for getting public exposure in a number of solo and group exhibits and gaining critical acclaim for his triumphs in painting competitions. Panes has been identified with his signature floral still lifes.

Their parallel careers are now brought together because of their shared passion for the Philippine countryside and the rural folk.

Cerda has been a long-time resident of Binangonan, and previously of the nearby Talim Island. Panes, with roots from La Paz, Iloilo, has lived since 1996 in Gasan, Marinduque, his wife's hometown. Both artists, now well in their 40s, are happy and most content with lives removed from the stressful urban setting.

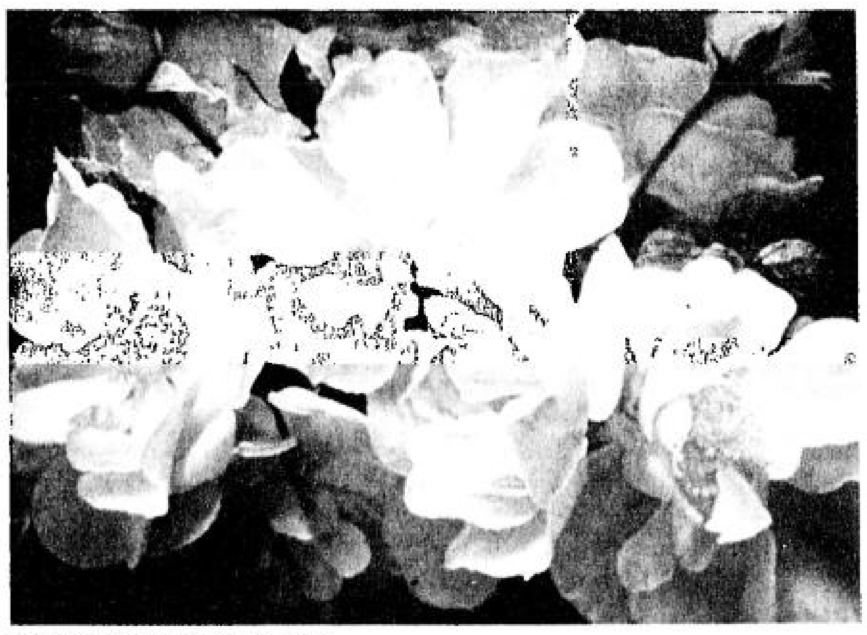
In their first show together, dubbed "Tubig at Langis," which signifies their choice media—watercolor for Cerda and oil for Panes—the common denominator is their truly remarkable mastery of the figure.

Cerda, a leading exponent of hyperrealism, has again captured the quintessential qualities of Filipino tykes in his hometown where water, by coincidence, also plays a major role in the children's day-to-day activities. In this show, he proves his treasure trove of children's games and antics is, indeed, a continuing saga, as wide and encompassing as his imagination.

Here are Cerda's little angels at play with their own brand of make-believe toys and recycled household gadgets, literally dipping their hands on whatever and wherever they can lay them, whether a pail of water, a peephole into which an insect has scampered away, a sturdy wooden post by the lake which they instantly transform into a ladder, or a kite which they let loose into the blue open sky.

These are portraits of wistful innocence, of what children are capable of doing when set free by adults so they can enjoy themselves in a world of play and make-believe.

Cerda's subjects are shown mostly in groups, sometimes in a horde of five or seven or more. In many of his works, the solitary figure of the child is shown playing by himself as in "Bangka-bangkaan," with a young boy navigating his improvised toy boat through the waterways.


"DAPPLED Dawn," by Panes

There are images of children indulging themselves in a game on a bamboo raft in the waters. And a couple of tykes in a game of push and shove by a large tree trunk, or engaged in a fierce climbing contest to reach the top.

The figures of both children and tree are limned in a hyperrealist manner, idiosyncratic in their behavior, yet the artist does not lose sight of the bigger picture, which is nature serving as one borderless playground.

More expansive

Panes unravels the countryside as a more expansive milieu than Cerda's. Here, in these oil paintings dating as far back as 1996, the artist shows rural folk gathering at the shoreline where they hold a regatta.

Or there is the father-and-son icon, bonding in a fishing expedition as mentor and apprentice who must learn the rudiments from the great river of life.

The waterways are, indeed, sacred places deserving of the highest respect, with its sense of homeland, the vestigial landscape that holds people and place together—the true symbol of territorial identity.

The series of oil paintings, "River Scenes" shows Panes' mastery of oil. His dynamic compositions depict a three-dimensional tableau, painted from a more panoramic and filmic perspective.

These scenes enable us to observe the characters closely through the activities they are engaged in, such as fishing or doing the day's laundry. Idealized, these bucolic scenes are unerringly rendered by Panes' brushwork, which allows lambent light to filter through tree branches and casting its reflection on the water itself.

Panes will invariably be compared to the masters in his uncanny ability to capture the quality of light in the countryside, recalling the grand maestro himself, Fernando Amorsolo. But Panes knows his milieu inside out, and that's one distinct advantage of an artist who has immersed himself in his own community, acquiring deep intimacy with the rural setting.

Panes has been Gallery Genesis' best kept secret all these years, long hidden from view until he surfaces every month to deliver a painting to the gallery owners, Chichi Salas and her husband, business executive Ernie Salas. Not one to succumb to the easy temptation of commercial success, Panes has managed to tarry and wait until such time he is securely happy with his output.

An entire wall is devoted to the artist's still lifes—a floral suite devoted to various tropical blooms, the likes of which have never been captured in this manner. These are flowers arranged in abundant profusion, looking as though they had just been cut from the mother plant, or still clinging to the branches, judging from their lively disposition or the exultant glimmer on the leaves.

Panes's artistic control of imagery is nothing short of perfection.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

Addie Cukingan exhibit to benefit Children's Village

AS A CHILD, ARTIST ADDIE CUKINGNAN could never stay still.

She recounts summer days of playing hide-and-seek with her cousins, watching her siblings fishing in the then pristine Pasig River, running around the garden with her dogs, and accompanying her father to Chinatown for his barbershop appointments. Addie's memories embrace the exuberance and inquisitiveness of youth, and the affection of loved ones.

"Children deserve to be happy and loved," said Cukingan. "They were meant to live fun, carefree lives."

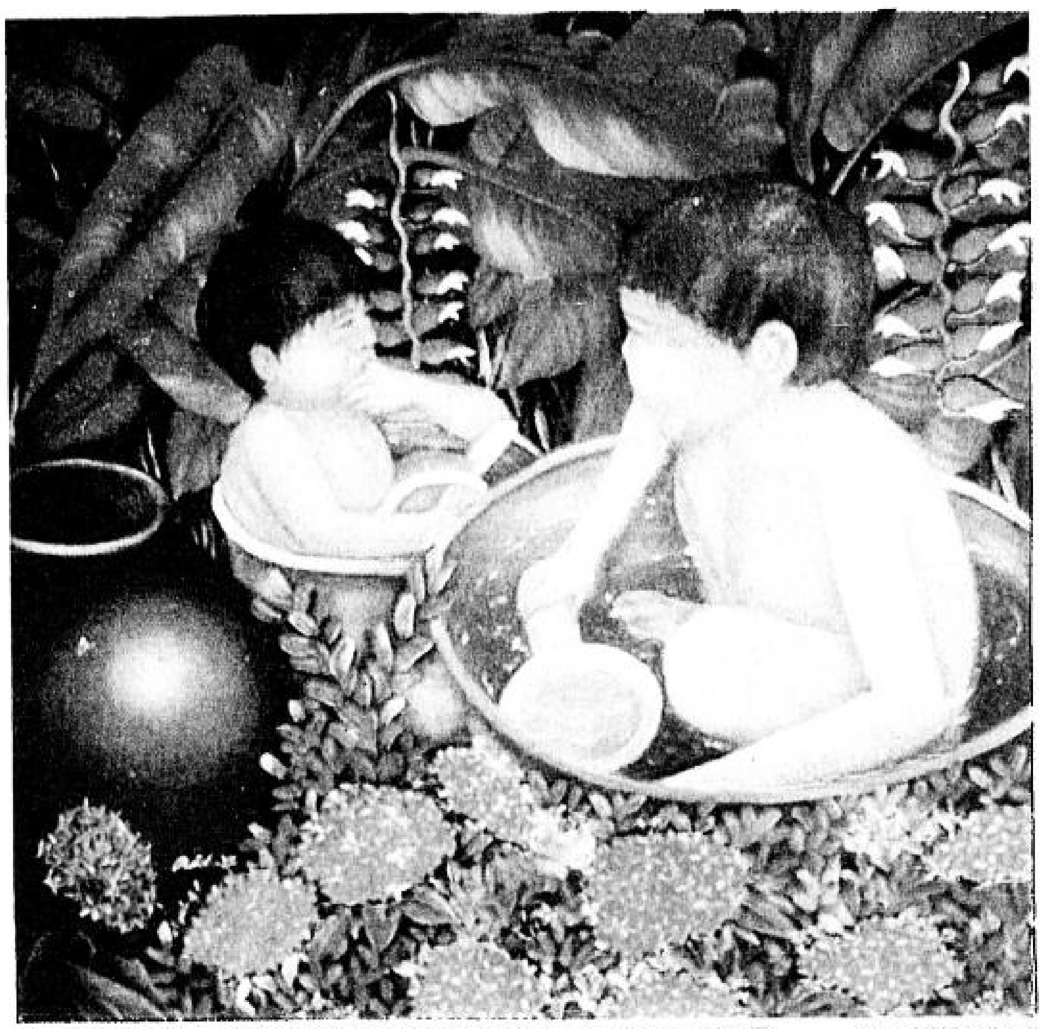
Addie's compassion and love for children are expressed in her latest solo exhibit, "Alay sa Bantay-Bata," which will be held Oct. 6-13, in Renaissance Gallery, 4/L, SM Megamall A.

One can feel a sense of warmth in her paintings, which depict the blithe innocence and curiosity of childhood. It is on these canvases that she conveys her dream for all children to experience the happy, carefree memories that she herself experienced as a child.

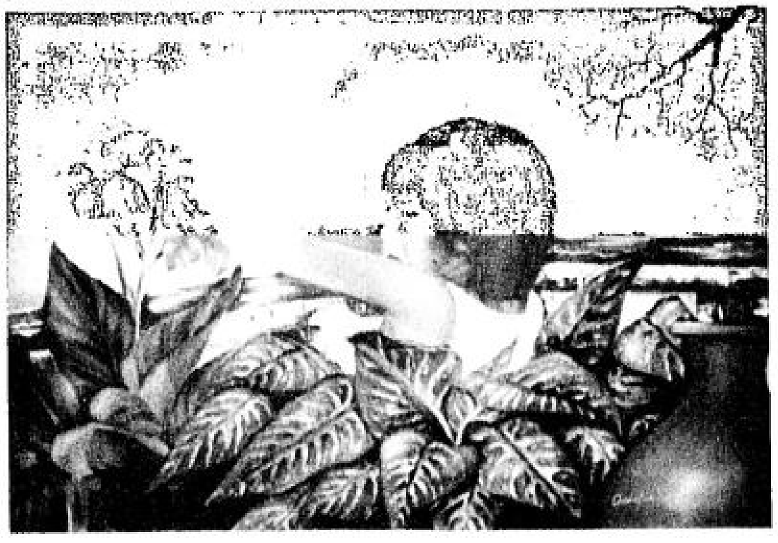
Bantay-Bata shares the same dream, and when Cukingan heard about Bantay-Bata's Children's Village, she offered to contribute to make the village a reality.

The Children's Village project of Bantay-Bata was constructed in December 2001 in a 2.5-ha land donated by Meralco. It was envisioned as a house for the rescued children of Bantay-Bata 163. The village seeks to become the first Asian institute for children.

At present, 118 children are housed at the village. Cukingan said her exhibit is a humble contribution toward rebuilding children's lives.



"KITA'Y Maligo"



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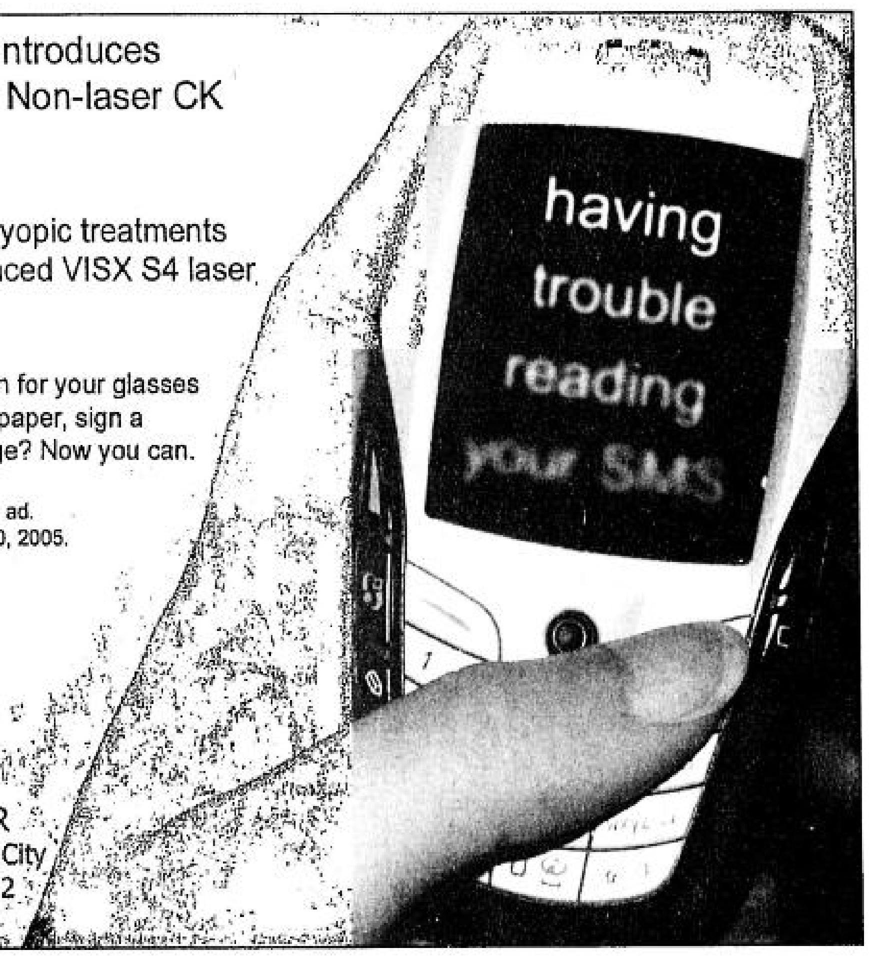

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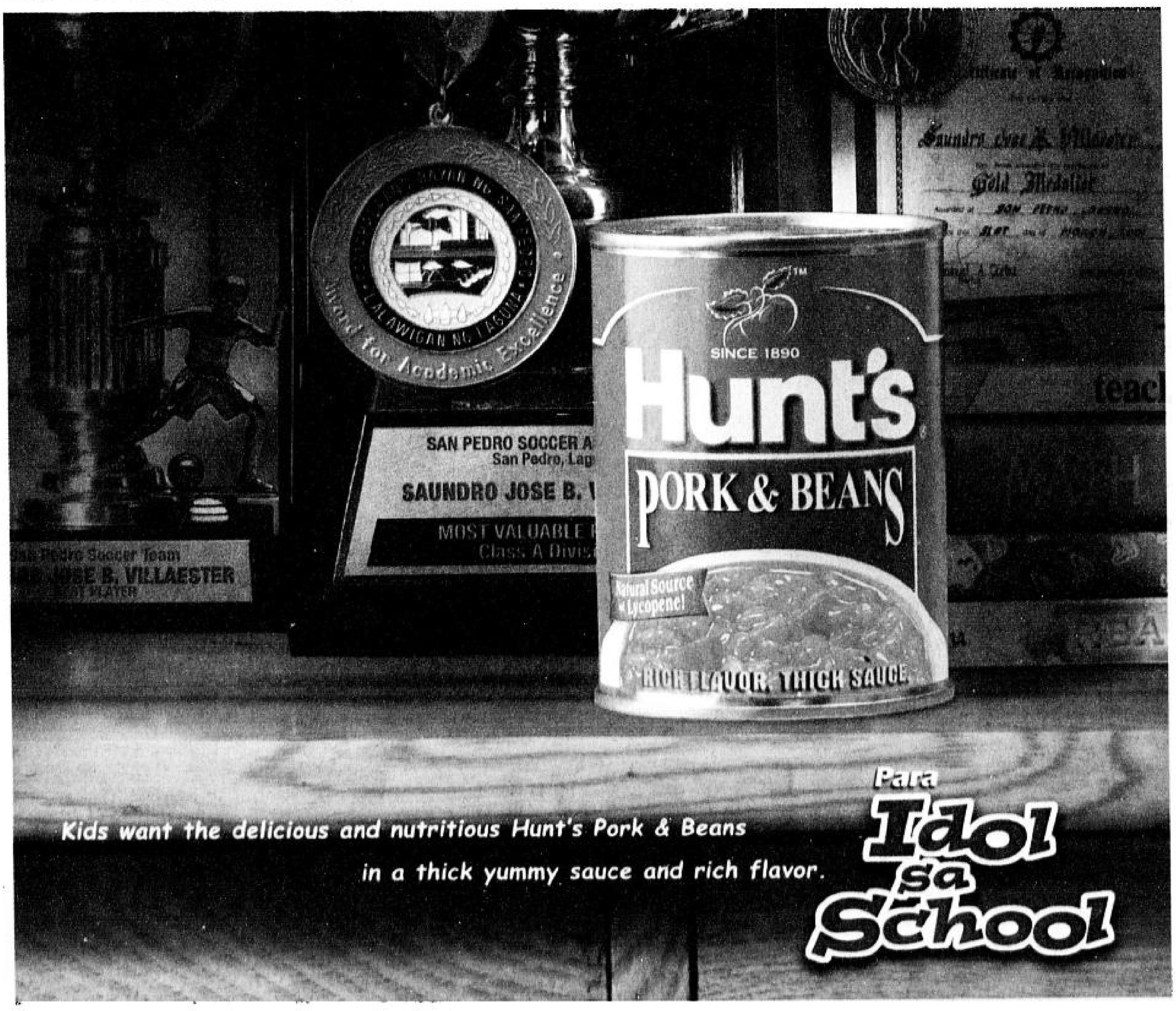
HELPING YOUR KIDS BEAT STRESS

The word "stress" usually evokes images of a corporate executive buried in heaps of paper-work, or the modern woman doing a juggling act between her career and motherhood. But if you think that stress is meant only for adults, think again.

Today, there is certainly an alarming increase in the number of children suffering from stress. Experts say that child stress can be caused by several reasons, like an unpleasant experience and even family disputes. Nonetheless, many children are stressed for a much simpler reason- -THEY HAVE TOO MUCH TO DO WITH SO LITTLE TIME.

As a mother, how will you know if stress has already affected your kid? Well, the signs of child stress are very obvious: anxiety, restlessness, irritability and insomia. In severe cases, a child suffering from prolonged stress is even in danger of falling into depression! So what should you do? First and foremost, check your kid's school and after-school activities. If your child's schedule is crammed with homework, math tutoring, piano lessons, guitar lessons, art classes and 2 types of sports, chances are... your child is OVERLOADED! Remember, not everything has to be accomplished THIS year.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Make sure to give your kid "unstructured time". That means having enough free time to be creative or to hang out with friends and play. It's what childhood is all about.

Family time is also crucial in reducing child stress. Create time to be together and enjoy a laid-back night of pizza or movie marathons with lots of laughter and cuddles in between. This may also be the only time for your kid and the rest of the family to bond with one another after a very stressful week.

And while you're at it, help your kid's mind and body keep up with life's daily demands with HUNT'S PORK AND BEANS. It is deliciously packed with all the vital nutrients like Magnesium, Iron, Protein, Lycopene, Flavonoids and Carbohydrates. HUNT'S PORK AND BEANS helps power your child's brain, making it sharper, smarter and able to meet all school and extra-curricular challenges! And keeping your child healthy helps reduce the possibility of stress!

Feed your kid HUNT'S PORK AND BEANS -- help him power his brain while making the most of his fun. frolicking childhood year.

Fermin in Bacolod, Yuson at West, Biglang-awa at Mag:net

ANTHONY FERMIN PAINTS THE BACOLOD'S Masskara festival in "Kasadya in Bacolod." More than 30 paintings and assemblages are presented. Exhibit runs Oct. 5-31 at Café Bobs, Lacson St., Bacolod City. E-mail arterymanila@yahoo.com

ALLIANCE Française de Manille presents "Quit Playing Games with My Art: Ay, Pwede Pala," which opens today and runs until Oct. 28. The group exhibit presents imagery which retraces the artists' own childhood and their penchant for everyday play. Call 8957441 or 8957585.

GALERIA de las Islas mounts Ramon Diaz's "Artist's Selections" until Dec. 31 at 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. The show is a collection of watercolor paintings rendered on Braille paper with subjects like horses, carp and abstract scenes. Call 5272113.

VISUAL ARTS

MAG:NET Gallery (Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas and Sedeño St., Makati) features Pablo Biglang-awa Jr.'s "False Relation" on Oct. 4-25. The ephemera of a former show have been abbreviated into totemic logos, mingling with the ubiquitous signs and props of the next day's projects, piling up further to the dense stratum of memory. Call 8177895.

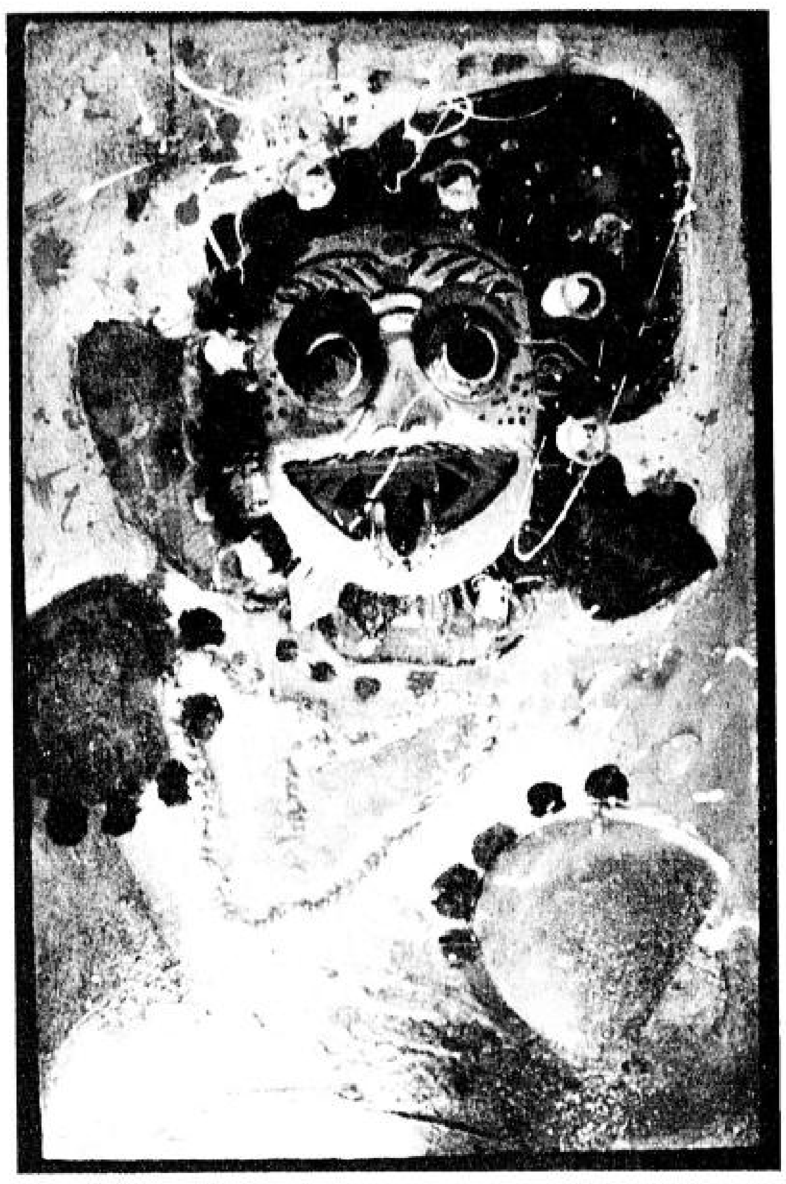
THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF Manila showcases "Open Letter," starting Oct. 5 at the Museum's Upper Galleries, BSP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The exhibit features the diversity of Australia's Southeast Asian community and its stories of migration, dislocation and belonging. Call 5237855 or 5240876.

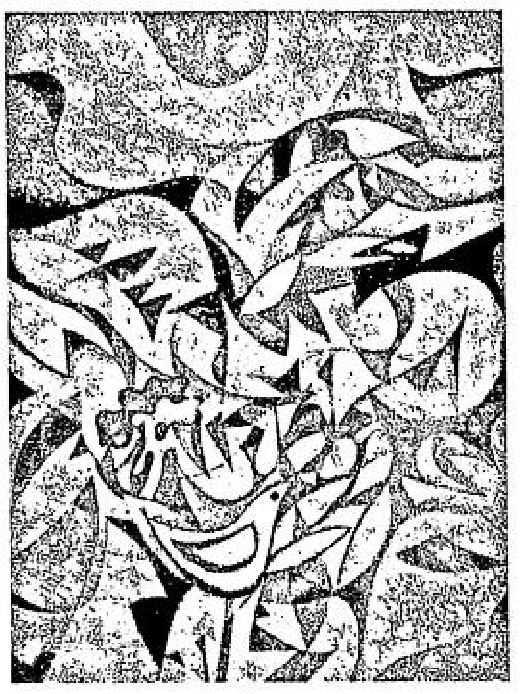
KURIT BIKOL artists hold their first group exhibition until Oct. 6 at Saturday Group Gallery. Featured are representational paintings or still-life, landscape, portrait and figure done in ball pen, oil, watercolor and acrylic.

GALERIE Astra showcases Jucar Raquepo's "Artwork Detailing" 2 until Oct. 14 at 2/L, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Makati. The artist uses logos, stickers and graphic-design layouts in his works. Call 7243032 or 7269015.

MAG:NET GALLERY ABS (The Loop, ELJ Comm. Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Eugenio Lopez Jr. St., Quezon City) presents Ronald Achacoso's "Crisis in Geometry" on Oct. 6-22. The works are composed of square canvases where interlocking Ls and Ts resembling maze-like forms are painted and waxed over. Call 4100995.

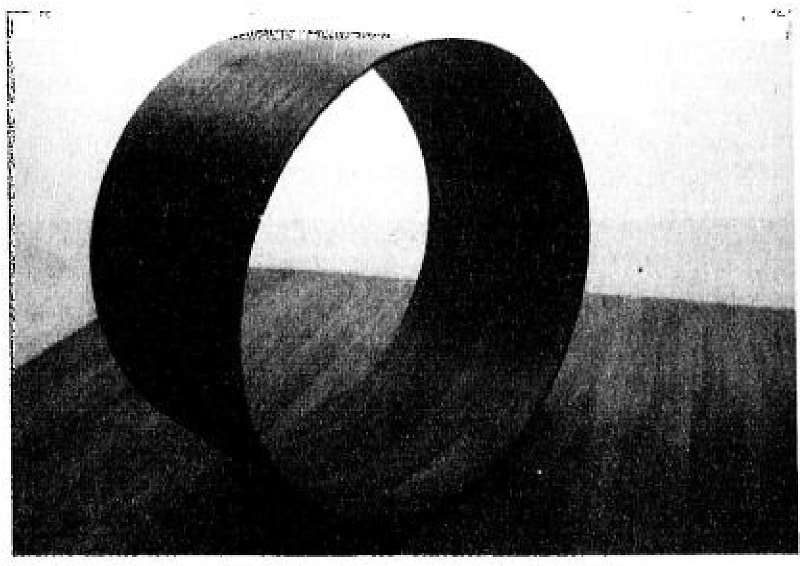
UGNAYAN '80, a group of University of Santo Tomas College of Fine Arts alumni, will hold an exhibit on Oct. 7-28 at SSS Gallery, 2/L, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, QC. Figure compositions, still-life, landscapes in mixed media, oil and watercolor are featured.



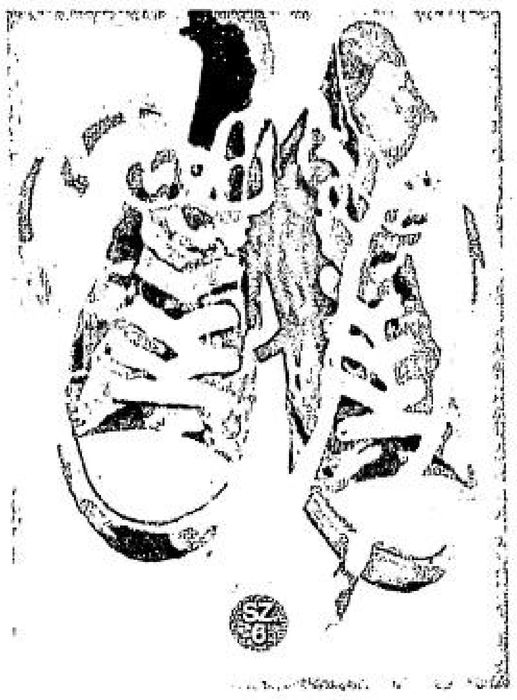


"SAYAW," by Anthony Fermin (above); "Camouflage," by Pablo Biglang-awa Jr. (right)

"SANCTUARY" I



SCULPTOR REG Yuson examines one's experience of a given space. Titled "Site + Works," the exhibit features Yuson's new installations using sheet metal and wood strips of vinyl. They are on view at West Gallery (Mary Santos Arcade, West Avenue, QC) on Oct. 4-22. Call 4110336 or 4119221.



GALERIA de las Islas presents Danilo Sola's "A Collection of My Ideas" on Oct. 8-31 at 3/L, Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. The show features abstract works in pastel, charcoal and acrylic and prints and monoprints. Call 5272113.

BART AGUAS' "Glaze 'n' Craze" is featured until Oct. 9 at Nicotina Garden Pavilion, Roxas Boulevard, Service Road, Pasay. An inclination toward Asian motifs and ethnicity as well as religious subjects permeates the works. Call 7267164.

AYALA MUSEUM features Gabriel Barredo's "Invisible" on Oct. 13-Nov. 6, in Greenbelt 4, Makati. The exhibit of kinetic art presents works made of found objects like conveyor belts, nylon threads, tires, chandeliers, eviscerated piano, spandex, pipes, filmstrips and electric fans. Call 8991767.

ART CIRCLE Gallery mounts Romeo Gutierrez's "Colors of Life" on Oct. 14-23, at Art Plaza, Edsa Shangri-La Mall, Mandaluyong. The exhibit depicts celebrations and essence of life in acrylic and oil.

BOSTON GALLERY presents three simultaneous exhibitions until Oct. 19 at 72 Boston cor Lantana Sts., Cubao, QC. On view at the Lower Gallery is "September Green," a show of recent landscapes by Jim Orencio; Upper Gallery, Erwin Leaño's "Landscapes," which evokes the subtle modulations of mist rising from mountains; and "Alcove," Willie Espino's first solo exhibit of paintings. Call 7229205.

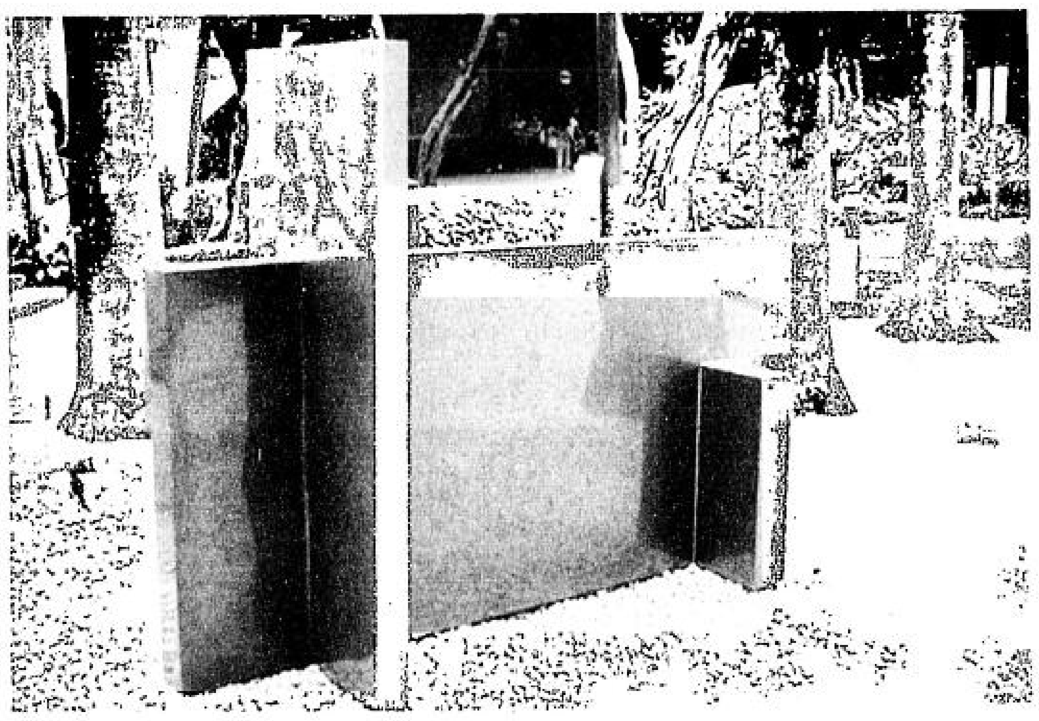
LOPEZ MEMORIAL MUSEUM presents Juan Arellano's "Drawing Space" on Oct. 6-April 8, 2006, at G/F, Benpres Bldg., Exchange Road cor Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The exhibit explores the dynamics of space in relation to memory-making and acts of self-imaging. Call 7577117 to 21.

ART INFORMAL holds a session on art appreciation on Oct. 8, 3-6 p.m. Artist and art educator Leo Abaya will conduct the lecture. Art Informal is at 277 Connecticut St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong. Call 7258518.

THE ALCOVE will hold "Photography for Beginners: Cavite in History" workshop on Oct. 15-16 at Island Cove Resort, Cavite. Call 8921801.

AYALA MUSEUM offers "Exploring the Arts" workshop for children aged 5-8 years old on Nov. 9, 16, 23 and 30, 3-5 p.m. Students will be taught drawing, painting, printmaking and collage-making. Call 7577117.

THE CATHOLIC Women's Club recently launched its limited-edition plates 2005 at their annual tea as one of its fund-raising projects. This year's featured artist is Betsy Westendorp. The plates carry the theme Holy Mother of God. Call 8432869, 8130048, 6317625, 8102568 or 8997408.

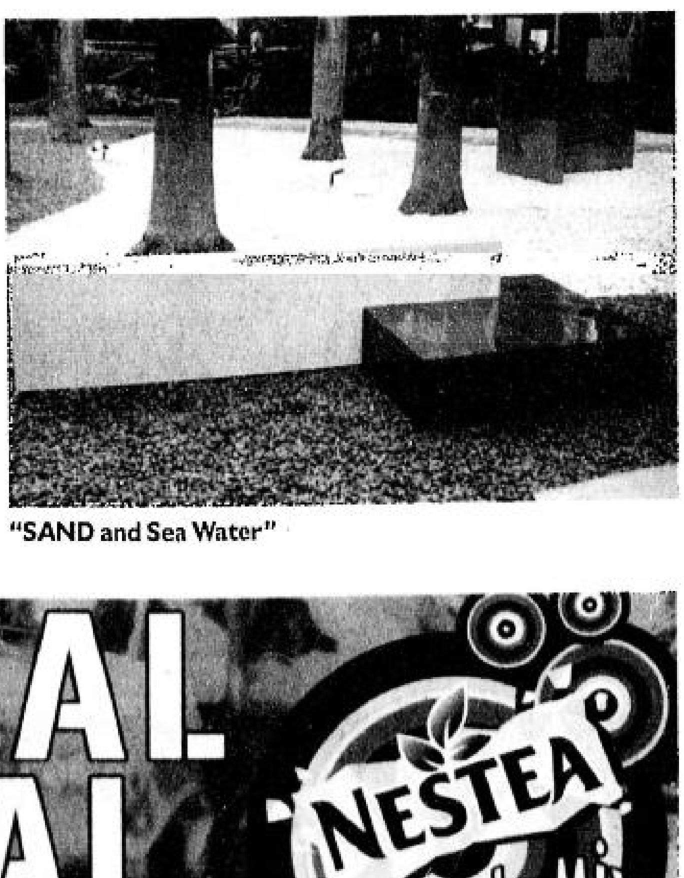


"SKY, Earth and Grass"

'Trans-': JPalencia sculptures at Greenbelt 4

PAINTER-SCULPTOR JPalencia mounts his latest works consisting of large-scale outdoor and park sculptures at the Ayala Greenbelt 4 Pebble Park. The show, "Trans-," is running till Oct. 30.

The exhibit is sponsored by Ayala Greenbelt, Du Pont paints, Philips, Antex Enterprises and Filcar Carrozzeria.



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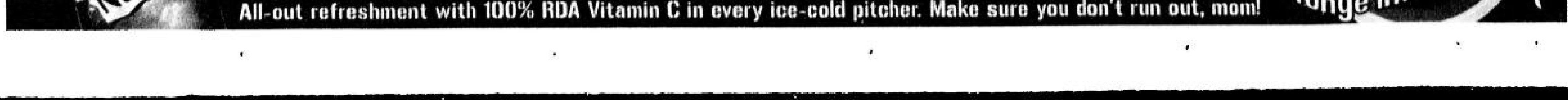

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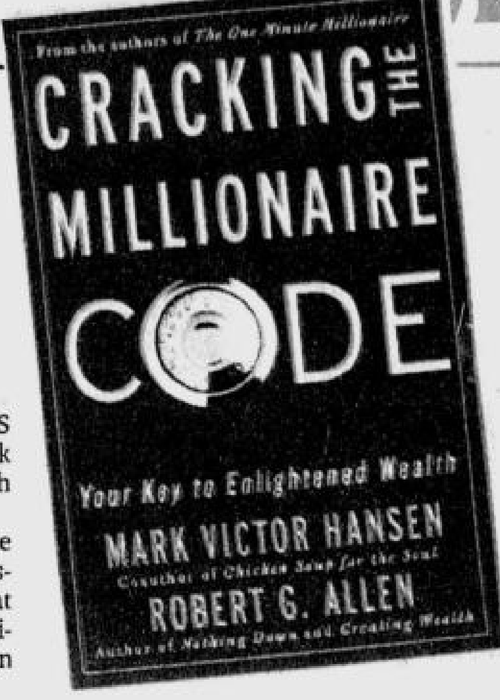
Cracking the code on getting rich


From the authors of The One Minute Millionaire
CRACKING THE MILLIONAIRE CODE
Your Key to Enlightened Wealth
MARK VICTOR HANSEN
Coauthor of Chicken Soup for the Soul
ROBERT G. ALLEN
Author of Nothing Down and Creating Wealth

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If you've ever wondered why some people struggle financially while others seem destined to lead more prosperous lives, or want to enjoy an abundant lifestyle without sacrificing any of the things you hold dear, then PowerBooks has just the book for you.

"Cracking the Millionaire Code" presents the formidable team-up of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series co-creator Mark Victor Hansen and business writer Robert G. Allen to provide readers with time-tested tenets for unlocking the secrets of creating "enlightened wealth."

Presenting four key wealth codes, the Destiny Code (discovering your place in the universe); the Prism Code (finding the path to success); the Angel Code (building the right team); and the Star Code (finding the right customers), Hansen and Allen show how to crack each one and achieve success. The authors also enter risky territory by proposing the idea of a "higher power" that only entrusts great wealth to those capable of handling it.

"Cracking the Millionaire Code" promotes an approach that most business authors will hardly consider. But the approach comes naturally. Every person may have at least one million-dollar idea locked within, and PowerBooks' Book of the Month will teach readers how to crack it.

PowerBooks has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428 to 29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63), Glorietta (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023 or 25) and Robinsons Place Ermita (5233334 or 5243448).

New story collection

Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo compiles her best short fiction

"SKY BLUE AFTER THE RAIN: Selected Stories and Tales" by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, has just been released by the University of the Philippines Press as part of its UP Jubilee Student Edition 2005 series.

The book brings together stories from the author's four short story collections and two novels, along with one new previously unpublished story.

Hidalgo has won numerous awards for fiction and nonfiction. She used to head the UP's Creative Writing Program and the UP Creative Writing Center. She was also director of the UP Press. She is now UP vice president for public affairs.

The UP Press Student Edition was designed as part of the UP Press' Read UP Campaign. It seeks to make the best of Philippine literature in English and Filipino more accessible to student, teachers and the general public in an inexpensive but handsome edition. It includes both contemporary classics and works by new writers.

Writers included in the Student Edition are National Artist Virgilio Almario, Jun Cruz Reyes, Jose Lacaba, Teo Antonio, Rebecca Añonuevo, Alfred Yuson, Jose Dalisay, Gémino H. Abad, Cirilo Bautista, J. Neil Garcia and Charlson Ong. Also included are young writers F.H. Batacan, Cris Martinez, Romulo Baquiran, Tara FT Sering and Alan Popa.

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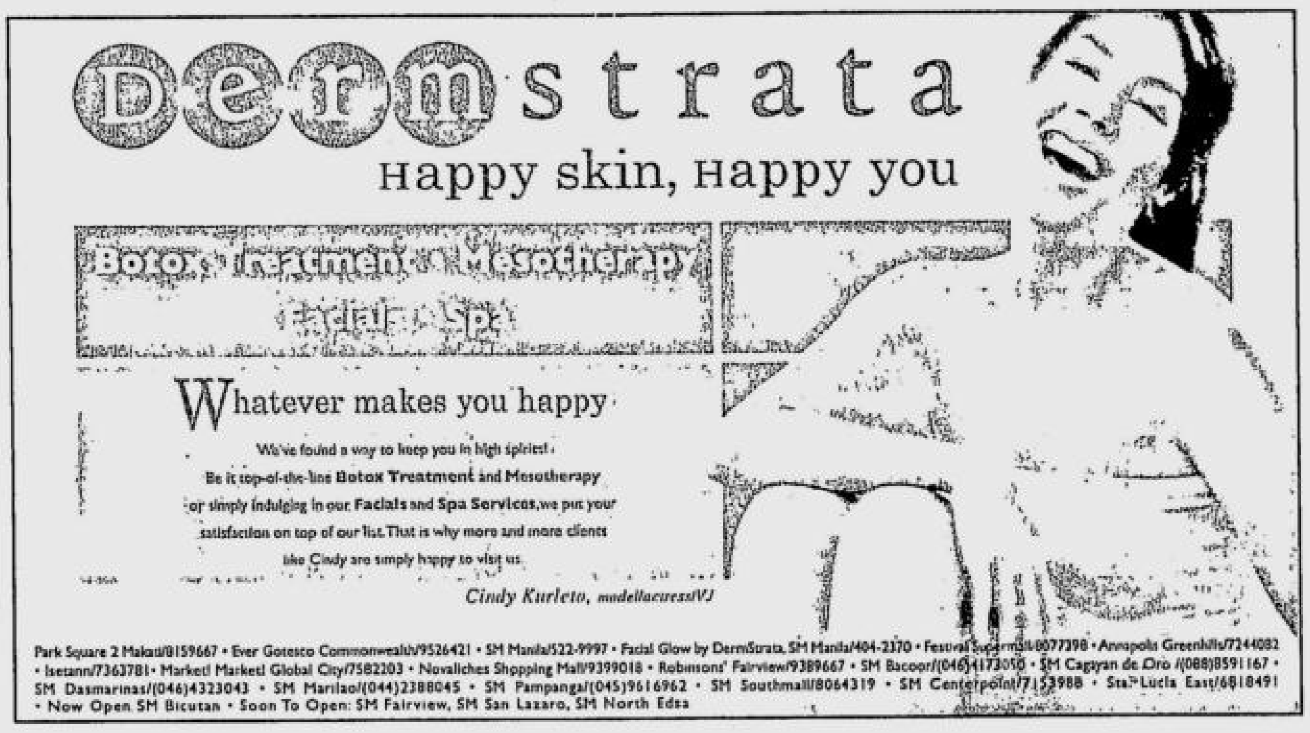
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Miss Earth 2005
BEAUTIES FOR A CAUSE
CAROUSEL PRODUCTION
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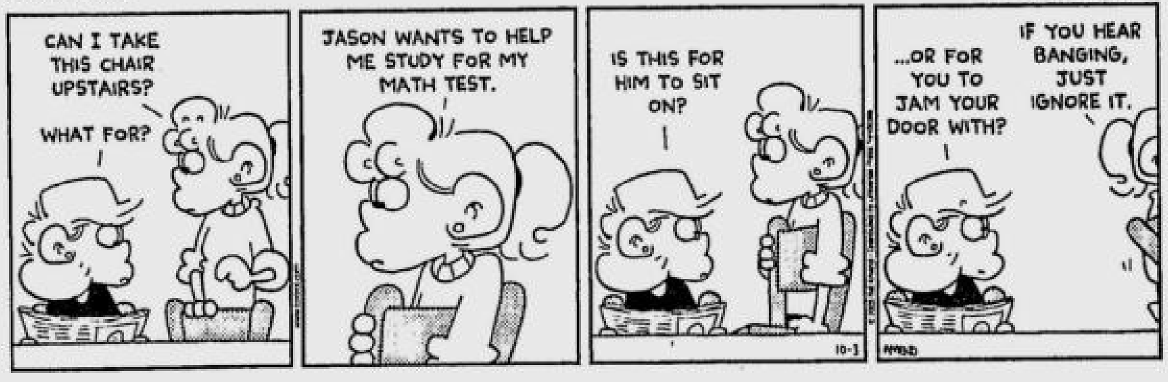
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A Tradition of Leadership

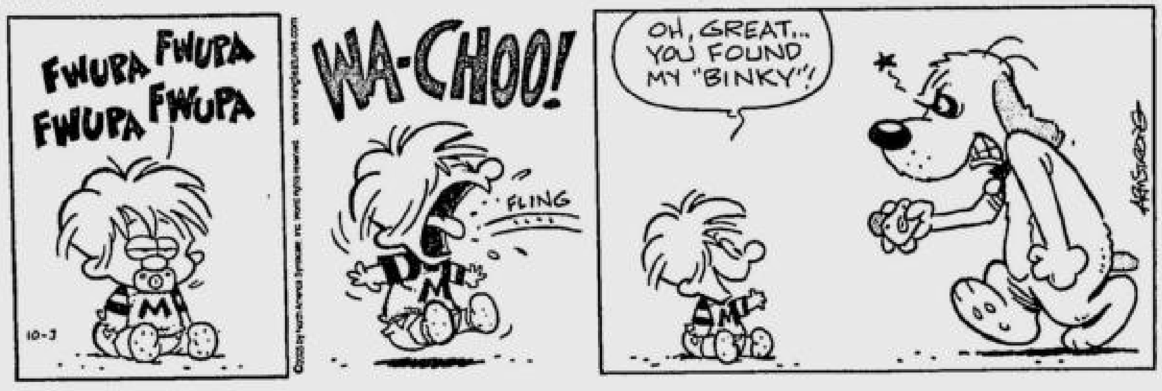
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


CAN I TAKE THIS CHAIR UPSTAIRS?
WHAT FOR?
JASON WANTS TO HELP ME STUDY FOR MY MATH TEST.
IS THIS FOR HIM TO SIT ON?
...OR FOR YOU TO JAM YOUR DOOR WITH?
IF YOU HEAR BANGING, JUST IGNORE IT.
10-3

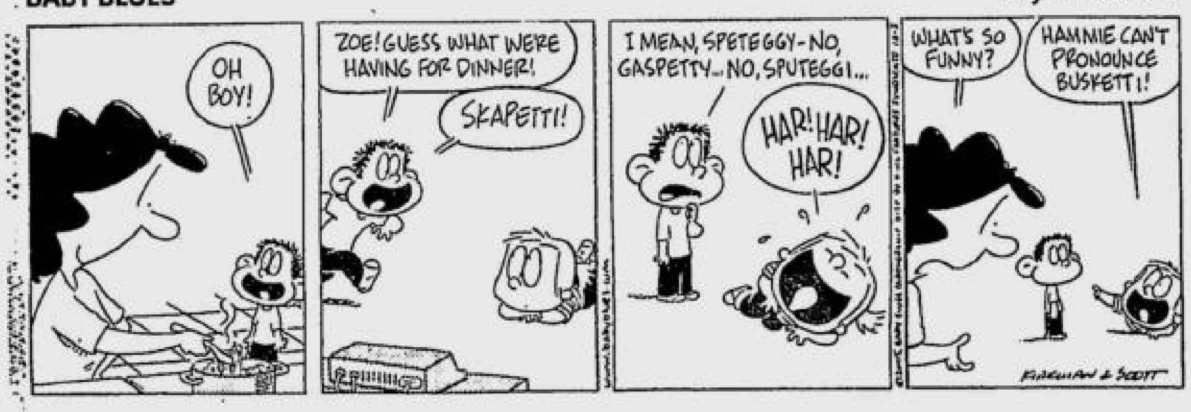
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


FWUPA FWUPA FWUPA FWUPA
10-3
WA-CHOO!
FLING
OH, GREAT... YOU FOUND MY "BINKY"!
ARMSTRONG

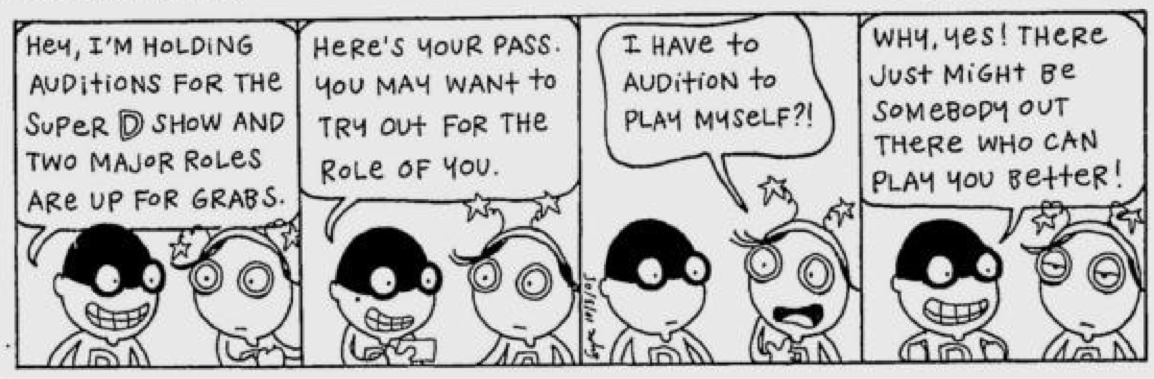
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OH BOY!
ZOE! GUESS WHAT WERE HAVING FOR DINNER!
SKAPETTI!
I MEAN, SPETEGGY-NO, GASPETTY...NO, SPUTEGGI...
HAR! HAR! HAR!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
HAMMIE CAN'T PRONOUNCE BUSKETTI!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, I'M HOLDING AUDITIONS FOR THE SUPER D SHOW AND TWO MAJOR ROLES ARE UP FOR GRABS.
HERE'S YOUR PASS. YOU MAY WANT TO TRY OUT FOR THE ROLE OF YOU.
I HAVE TO AUDITION TO PLAY MYSELF?!
WHY, YES! THERE JUST MIGHT BE SOMEBODY OUT THERE WHO CAN PLAY YOU BETTER!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're aware of what's happening in the world because you like to be up-to-date. You tackle each new day with fresh intensity. You believe in life after birth! Others are enthused by your energy and your interests. This year you will be totally focused on partnerships, marriage and close friendships. You want to know what you can rely on.

Birthdate of: Neve Campbell, actress; Ashlee Simpson, singer/actress; Lindsey Buckingham, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today's New Moon is an opportunity for you to improve your closest friendships and partnerships. Generally, the best way to do this is simply to be friendly and considerate to others.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your job improves this year! Today's New Moon is the time to adopt new resolutions about how to do your job. Think of two things that will make a positive difference.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Our modern-day society often leaves art to the experts. But the true worth is in the "doing." Express yourself creatively!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): What can you do to improve your domestic situation, your family environment and your relations with relatives? Today's New Moon is the perfect time to ponder this.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): How can you improve your relations with siblings? Think of one thing you can do to get along better with your neighbors. Shift your awareness to this, just for today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good day to think about how to improve your earnings. You might also want to think about how to get the best value for your money when shopping.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today's New Moon is in your sign. This is the best day of the entire year to think about your self-image and the impression you create on others. What can you do to improve it?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's important to keep a balance between your external, busy world and your inner world. Make sure you take time to smell the roses.

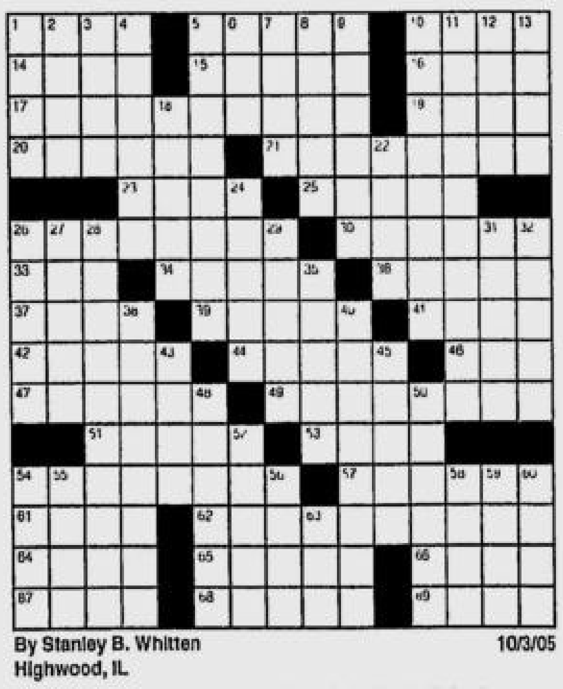
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Each New Moon is an opportunity to make reforms or changes in our lives for the better. Today's New Moon focuses on friendships for your sign. What can you do to be a better friend to others?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You have a strong sense of destiny. You intend to be someone. Think about your long-range goals and the life path you want for yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): More than any other sign, you see planet Earth as a global village. Think about ways to learn about other cultures and different countries.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): The wealth of others can definitely benefit you now and for months to come. Gifts, inheritances and the use of what other people own will bless you now.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
10/3/05

ACROSS
1 Sport on horseback
5 Billiards shot
10 Rudiments
14 Simians
15 Lazybones
16 Farmer's production
17 Star of "Just Shoot Me"
19 Paper mulberry tree bark
20 Former English counties
21 Strategic action
23 Division word
25 Stellar explosions
26 Senior citizens
30 Nevertheless
33 Can. province
34 Utter
36 Wary
37 Medical school subj.
39 Capital of Oregon
41 Kind of palm
42 Boundary
44 Exclude
46 Take flight
47 Pillow talk?
49 Artist equipment
51 Aeries
53 Neighbor of Java
54 Alabama arsenal
57 Kind of hat
61 Christiania, today
62 Civic organization
64 Leave with a limp
65 Saki, really
66 Hard work
67 Whimper
68 Postage
69 Ecological cycle

DOWN
1 Paper tablets
2 Brilliant marine fish
3 Son of Leah and Jacob
4 Egyptian judge of the dead
5 Errors
6 PC workings
7 Shut with force
8 Four-door auto
9 Heretofore
10 Puts into action
11 Mel Gibson movie
12 Deal with
13 Rigging support
18 Fender damages
22 Satanic
24 Mountain nymph
26 Iridescent gems
27 Stalin's predecessor
28 Mae West character
29 Orchid tuber
31 Debate
32 City on the Rhone
35 Dish on a skewer
38 Boring
40 Misuse of a word
43 Audition
45 Kind of race
48 Rages
50 Faint colorations
52 Pig's nose
54 Easy win
55 Biblical twin
56 Lab burner, once
58 Shaving cream additive
59 "The Ghost and Mrs. __"
60 Qualified
63 Upper limb

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

I	T	C	H	E	S	■	S	P	L	A	S	H	E	D
T	R	A	U	M	A	■	A	L	A	N	H	A	L	E
A	E	N	E	I	D	■	R	A	G	T	I	M	E	S
L	E	D	■	R	A	B	A	T	■	S	E	L	M	A
I	T	E	M	■	T	O	N	I	S	■	R	E	E	L
C	O	L	A	S	■	P	A	N	E	S	■	T	N	T
S	P	A	R	E	S	■	C	U	L	T	I	S	T	S
■	■	■	G	U	N	S	■	M	E	A	N	■	■	■
H	O	M	E	S	I	T	E	■	S	T	A	M	P	S
A	C	E	■	S	P	R	E	E	■	E	L	I	O	T
L	U	L	L	■	S	E	R	G	E	■	L	A	M	E
I	L	I	A	D	■	S	I	G	M	A	■	S	P	A
D	I	S	G	U	I	S	E	■	A	N	I	M	A	L
E	S	S	E	N	C	E	S	■	I	N	S	A	N	E
S	T	A	R	K	E	S	T	■	L	E	S	S	O	R

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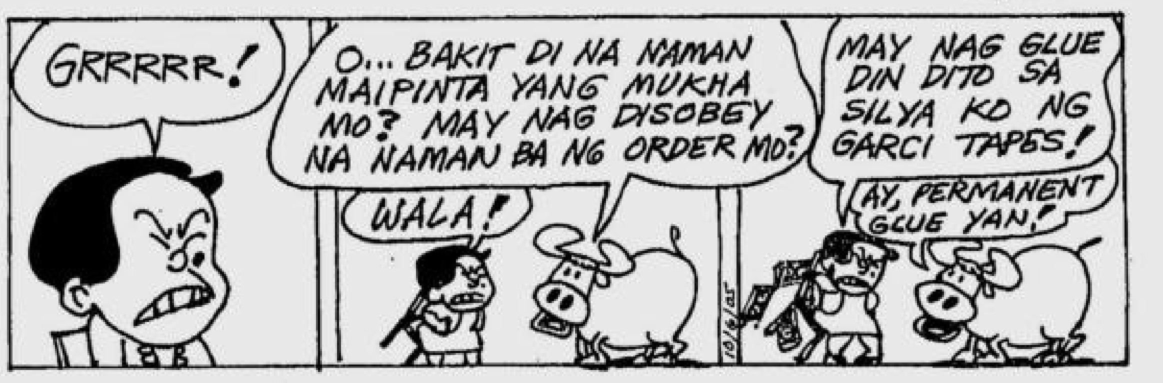
10/3/05

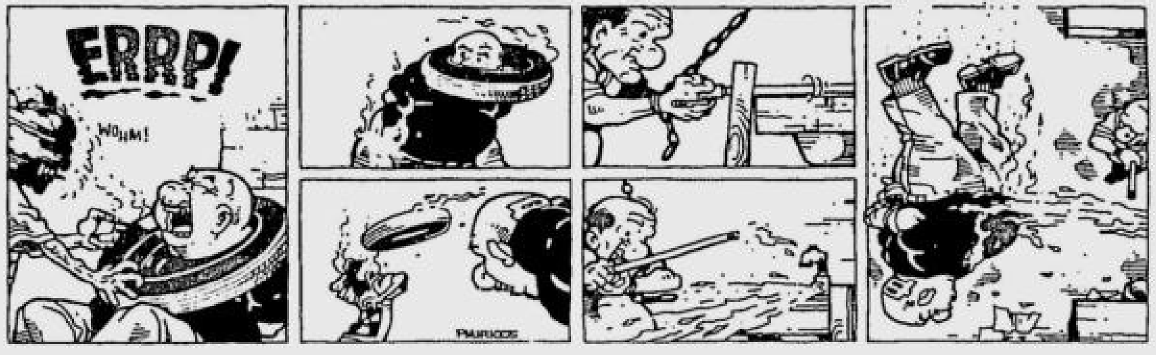
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GRRRRR!
O... BAKIT DI NA NAMAN MAIPINTA YANG MUKHA MO? MAY NAG DISOBEY NA NAMAN BA NG ORDER MO?
WALA!
MAY NAG GLUE DIN DITO SA SILYA KO NG GARCI TAPES!
AY, PERMANENT GLUE YAN!
10/1/05

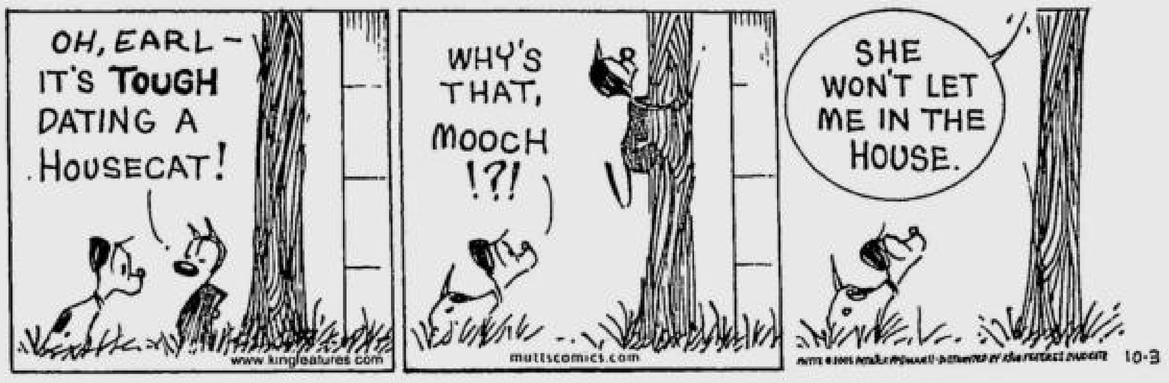
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ERRP!
WOHM!
PMJR2005

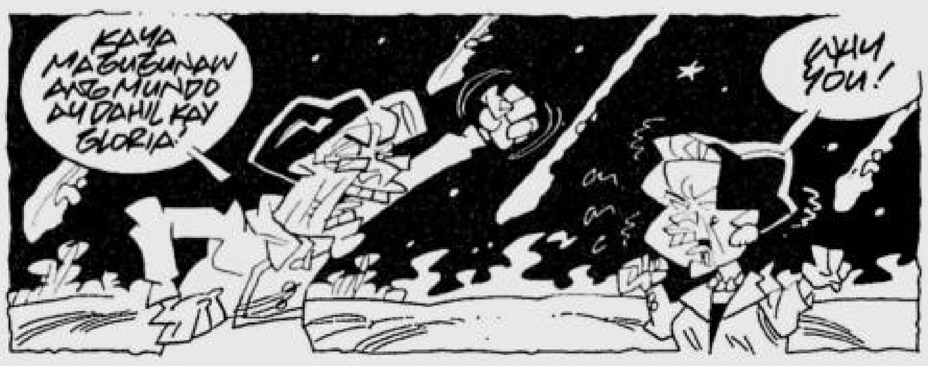
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, EARL – IT'S TOUGH DATING A HOUSECAT!
WHY'S THAT, MOOCH !?!
SHE WON'T LET ME IN THE HOUSE.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
10-3

DIVINE COMEDY

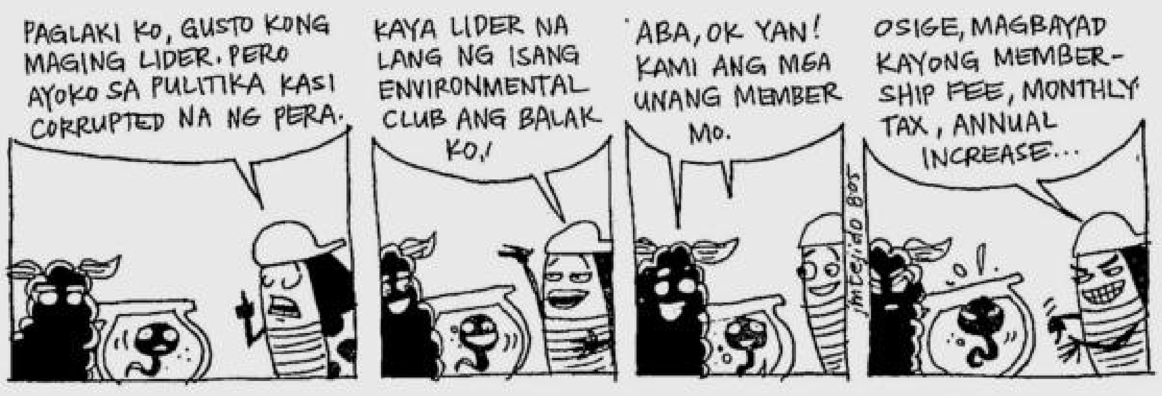
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


KAYA MAGUGUNAW ANG MUNDO AY DAHIL KAY GLORIA!
WHY YOU!

OPPOSITION VERSUS ADMINISTRATION AND THE END OF THE WORLD

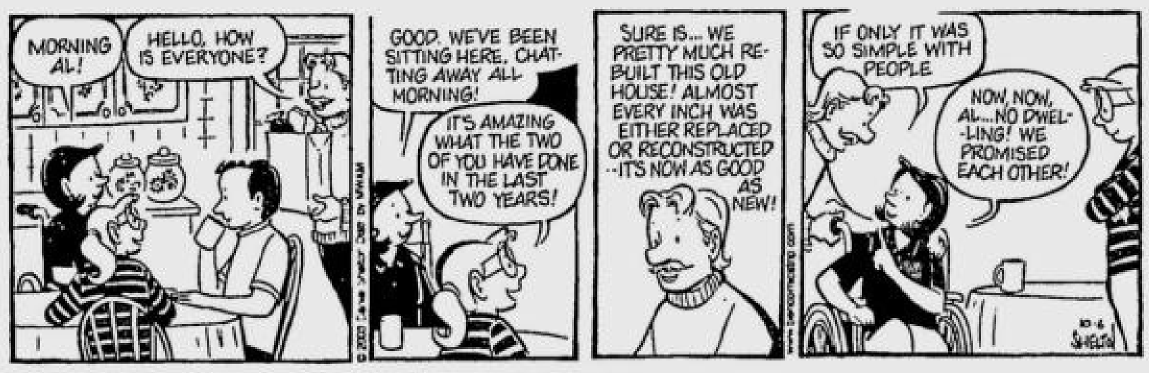
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAGLAKI KO, GUSTO KONG MAGING LIDER. PERO AYOKO SA PULITIKA KASI CORRUPTED NA NG PERA.
KAYA LIDER NA LANG NG ISANG ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB ANG BALAK KO!
ABA, OK YAN! KAMI ANG MGA UNANG MEMBER MO.
OSIGE, MAGBAYAD KAYONG MEMBERSHIP FEE, MONTHLY TAX, ANNUAL INCREASE...
TEJIDO 805

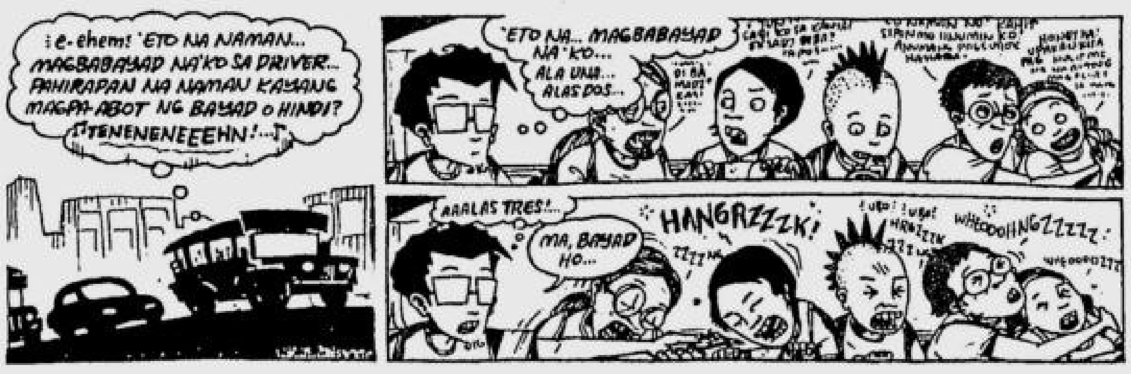
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MORNING AL!
HELLO, HOW IS EVERYONE?
GOOD. WE'VE BEEN SITTING HERE, CHATTING AWAY ALL MORNING!
IT'S AMAZING WHAT THE TWO OF YOU HAVE DONE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS!
SURE IS... WE PRETTY MUCH REBUILT THIS OLD HOUSE! ALMOST EVERY INCH WAS EITHER REPLACED OR RECONSTRUCTED ...IT'S NOW AS GOOD AS NEW!
IF ONLY IT WAS SO SIMPLE WITH PEOPLE
NOW, NOW, AL...NO DWELLING! WE PROMISED EACH OTHER!
10-6
SHELTON

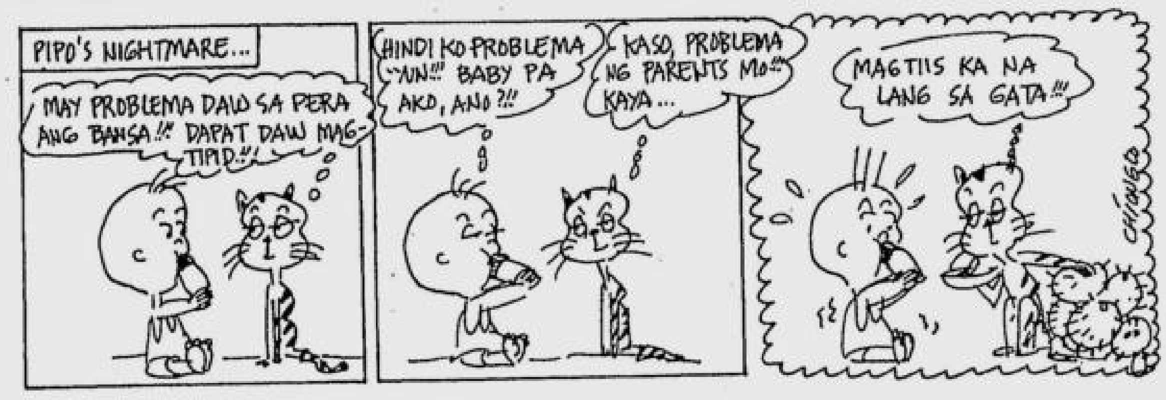
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


¡e-ehem! 'ETO NA NAMAN... MAGBABAYAD NA'KO SA DRIVER... PAHIRAPAN NA NAMAN KAYANG MAGPA-ABOT NG BAYAD O HINDI? ♫TENENENEEEEHN!...♫
'ETO NA... MAGBABAYAD NA'KO... ALA UNA... ALAS DOS...
AAALAS TRES!...
MA, BAYAD HO...
HANGRZZZK!
WHOOOHNGZZZZZ

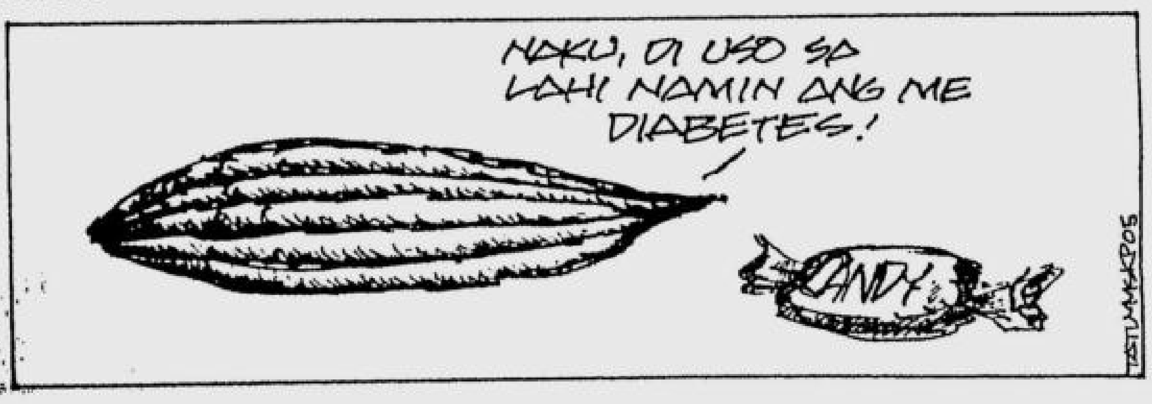
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PIPO'S NIGHTMARE...
MAY PROBLEMA DAW SA PERA ANG BANSA!!! DAPAT DAW MAGTIPID!!!
HINDI KO PROBLEMA 'YUN!!! BABY PA AKO, ANO?!!
KASO, PROBLEMA NG PARENTS MO!!! KAYA...
MAGTIIS KA NA LANG SA GATA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NAKU, DI USO SA LAHI NAMIN ANG ME DIABETES!
CANDY
TATUM MAKAPO5

Of food, spirits and La Naval in Mr. & Ms Magazine

KC MONTERO and Geneva Cruz on the cover of Mr. & Ms.

OCTOBER SPELLS recipes galore for Mr. & Ms. Magazine, the Supermonthly of the Body, the Mind and the Spirit.

Continuing an almost three-decade-old tradition, Mr. & Ms features mouthwatering recipes from the Best of the Test Kitchens around. Chicken Breast with Rice Stuffing from Ajinomoto, Fruity Sago Pudding from Del Monte, Sionai from RFM, Peanut Butter Swirl Cupcakes from Maya, Tuna Tinola from Century Tuna, Corned Beef and Potato Cakes from Argentina's Corned Beef, Corned Beef Sopas from Nestle, Wanton Noodle Soup from San Miguel, and Bangkok Stir Fry from Tupperware are a few of the dishes in the food special.

There is an article on the healing powers of biblical foods by Michaela Fenix, who gives the subject a local flavor.

Not to be forgotten are "recipes" of the spiritual kind. Inspiring is the history of Our Lady of La Naval, whose feast will be marked by a huge procession on Oct. 9, by Alice Colet Villadolid.

If you want to attain self-understanding and inner peace, read about meditation and the art of sitting still. Learn from Jaime Licauco's "Essay on Psychic Powers" and know about the Feng Shui factor to a successful life. Mariel Francisco focuses on "Sex as An Experience of the Soul."

Columnist Aida Sevilla-Mendoza writes about a ghost child haunting a busy intersection. Actress Rica Peralejo and director Joyce Bernal talk about their ghost stalkers. There's also a feature on Halloween trivia and nature spirits.

Maricel Soriano talks about her new soap opera and her cooking skills.

Lovebirds KC Montero and Geneva Cruz reveal intimate information about themselves, such as their food fetishes.

UP writers workshop issues new guidelines

LIKHAAN: THE UP INSTITUTE of Creative Writing (UP ICW) is now accepting applications for the 45th UP National Writers Workshop to be held in Baguio for one week in the summer of 2006.

UP ICW director, Prof. Vim Nadera, also announced that 12 fellowships are available and that these are open only to advanced writers. He explained that since there is a proliferation of creative writing workshops on both the national and local levels, beginning writers now have many other options.

Said Nadera: "In keeping with its mandate of taking the lead in the development of Philippine literature, the UP ICW has decided to re-conceptualize its annual workshop to address the changing needs of writers as well as constraints brought on by the current financial crisis."

Nadera also announced the new workshop guidelines.

To qualify, applicants: must be writers in English or Filipino; must have attended at least one creative writing workshop (national/regional, including the UP National Writers' Workshops), or earned a degree in Creative Writing/Malikhaing Pagsulat, or won at least 1 national/international literary award; must have published at least 3 poems or 2 short stories or 2 pieces of creative nonfiction (e.g., essays, memoirs, profiles) in reputable collections or anthologies, journals, magazines (including campus publications), or refereed Internet web magazines.

Some of these qualifications may be waived in exceptionally meritorious cases.

Applicants must submit the following: four copies plus digital file (12 points, double-spaced, 8 x 6) of one original unpublished manuscript (short story, poem, or creative nonfiction) to be discussed during the Workshop—this manuscript should not have been submitted to any other workshop; a 2-paragraph description of a work-in-progress in any of the above genres, in English or Filipino (also 12 points, double-spaced, 8 x 6); photocopies of the applicant's published work, including publication details; and an application form (available at the UP ICW office in UP Diliman and on the ICW website: http://www.up.edu.ph/~icw).

Deadline is Dec. 15. Call 9221830.

LET'S PARTY!
merit PARTY LINE
GIFTS • PARTY PRIZES • GIVEAWAYS
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pinakamaganda
05 MISS INTERNATIONAL
Pinakamainit na pagsalubong kay 2005 Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman. We're proud of you!

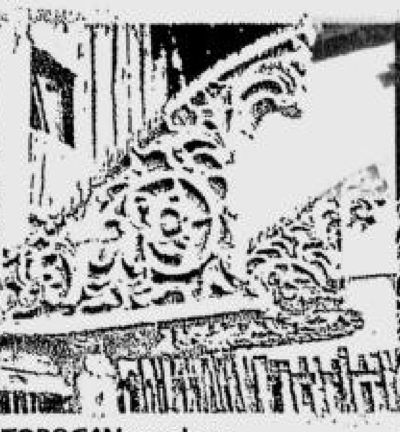
Welcome Parade on Monday, October 3:
- 3:00pm Buendia, Ayala Avenue, U-turn at EDSA, to Makati Avenue
- 5:00pm Araneta Center, Quezon City

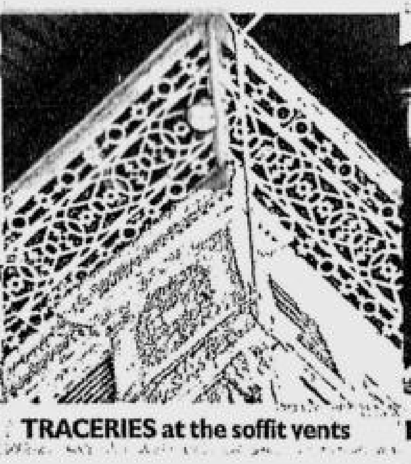
Pinaka pizza Pizza Hut

BOOK PREVIEW

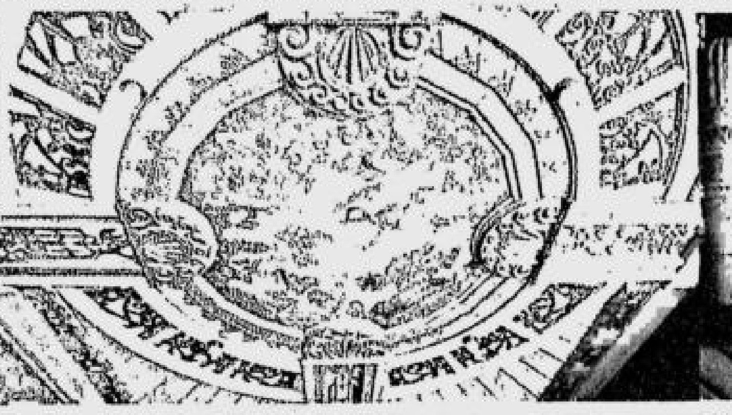
Photographs from the NCCA-UAP-CFA Database System of Heritage and Cultural Sites

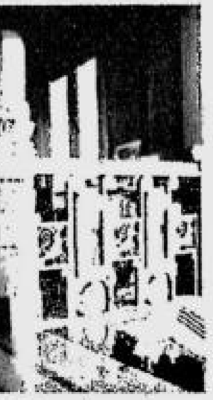
IVATAN house door


TOROGAN panolong


TRACERIES at the soffit vents

IRONWORK detail


AMORSOLO painting on the ceiling of a house in Bulacan


ART Deco newel post

Leafing through the pages of Philippine heritage architecture

Philippine Heritage Architecture
Before 1521 to the 1970s
By Maria Cristina Valera-Turalba
Published and distributed by
Anvil Publishing Inc.

By Lynett A. Villariba

THE PICTORIAL BOOK IS A veritable journey through 196 pages of architectural structures from "as far north as Batanes to as far down south as Basilan" that have shaped the way Filipinos live, work and play.

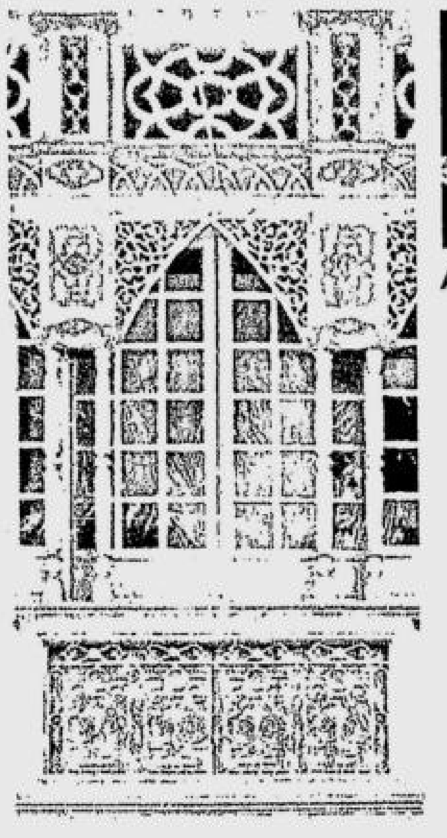
Laid out in 8 ½ x 11 page format, a wide range of Philippine Heritage Architecture is presented, color-coded through time periods when the structures were built—from the vernacular period before 1521 to the Spanish colonial, through the American colonial and mid-20th century periods until the 1970s.

Culled from a four-year documentation project implemented by author Cristina Valera-Turalba under the aegis of the National Commission of Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) that yielded photographs of 1,500 structures, covering 217 cities and 50 out of 79 provinces, the impressive collection provides students, enthusiasts and future generations an important reference book for heritage art and architecture.

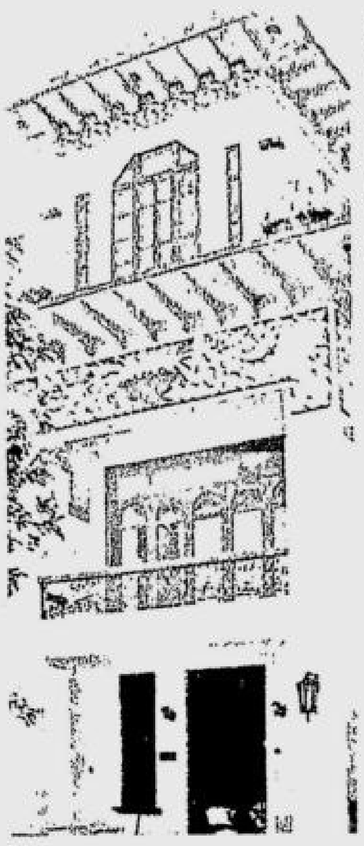
Of interest are the residences which showcase the Filipino homeowner's taste for architectural details from functional to decorative to classic, as shown.

The book will be launched tomorrow, Oct. 4, 6 p.m., at the CCP Little Theater. Published by Anvil, it should be available thereafter at your favorite bookstores.

RAILINGS, grille works of a *torogan*, the ancestral home of the Maranaos


SPANISH colonial windows framed by traceries in a *bahay na bato*, circa 1800

ARCHITECT-author Cristina Valera-Turalba


AMERICAN period mansion in Sariaya, Quezon, built in 1929

SPIRAL staircase of the Lopez boathouse in Iloilo, built in 1935

Stimulating the creative industries with great ideas

Our museums have collections that should generate creative ideas. But Filipinos hardly go to museums

Pride of Place

Augusto F. Villalon

TO STAY AHEAD OF GLOBAL COMPETITION, creative industries must innovate, improve, streamline their production and be cost-efficient.

Above all, the product—be it a drama, a ballet, a hand-loomed textile or a native basket, a traditional house or a 50-story skyscraper, an orchestra, choir, poetry or novel, a painting or a sculpture, traditional or fusion cuisine, or furniture, furnishing, or accessory—must be original.

Originality sets each product apart from the rest.

What kinds of stimuli are needed to fire up our creative industries and keep originality and innovation at the highest levels?

A lot of motivation is needed to keep creative ideas sparking. And where could one go in the Philippines to find the elusive creative spark?

The Victoria and Albert Museum in London was established during the Industrial Revolution to display collections of furniture, fashion, jewelry, porcelain, glass, including the best in decorative art from around the world, to serve as educational and inspirational material for artists, students and manufacturers.

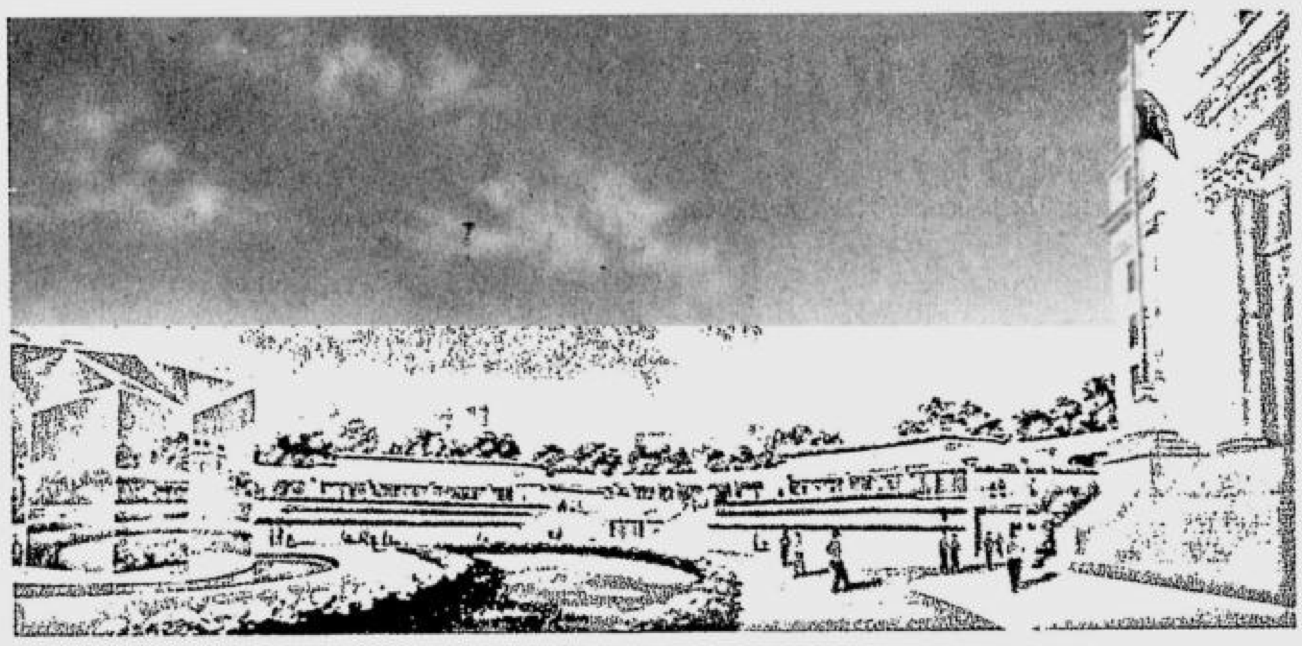
But in a situation like ours, where there is a great difficulty in setting up a proper National Museum, chances for a specialized Victoria and Albert Museum are understandably slim.

However, as a resource for all of the professionals in creative industries, the Philippines has a collection of resources even more vast than the V&A's, except that the collection is literally scattered all over the place.

Start at the National Museum in Manila and its provincial branches. It has the definitive collection of Philippine treasures. Its paintings, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, weavings and carvings are just the tip of the iceberg.

Digging deeper into the museum, I have been fortunate to see a roomful of preserved leaves and incredible botanical drawings, neatly catalogued rocks and stones in the geology collection, and a bunch of bones from whales and other strange animals (including people from long ago). They set my mind going off with ideas.

Casa Manila in Intramuros, De La Salle Museum in Dasmariñas (Cavite), Casa Gorordo in Cebu, the Burgos House in Vigan—they are the country's leading lifestyle museums from the Spanish colonial era in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.


ARTIST'S conception of a National Museum complex

University museums

The university museums of Santo Tomás in Manila and of San Carlos and Southwestern in Cebu have incredible collections spanning the entire range—from rare manuscripts to pre-Hispanic gold and pottery, and colonial and modern art.

The museums are good places to check furniture designs, embroidery on pillowcases, wood carvings, glassware, and anything else that give eye-stopping product ideas, settings for historical novels, inspiration for musical compositions, fashion, or whatever else.

But sadly Filipinos do not go to their museums.

One of Manila's couture greats told me that he gets his embroidery inspiration from the intricate carvings on his client's collection of Spanish colonial furniture, proof that great craftsmanship is timeless and that ideas pop up from the most unexpected sources.

A letter sent to this column correctly focuses on the need of having examples of good decorative art available so that our designers can be inspired by them " … Imagine if we retained [and displayed] the jewelry, footwear, outfits, porcelain, silver and the like of the Marcos family rather than selling them off to supposedly fund agrarian reform, then our industries would have some ideas to develop for their products. Marikina, at least, has its Shoe Museum as a start."

There are countless sources for good ideas. Two of this year's award-winning books are incredibly valuable. "Álbum Islas Filipinas 1663-1888" by José María Cariño and Sonia Ner and "Ginto: History Wrought in Gold" by Ramón Villegas are great references for all aspects of Philippine heritage.

The Cultural Center has an impressive library and an even more impressive collection of photographs, music and artifacts. The Design Center Philippines library is probably the most comprehensive in the country on product design. Its collection of design objects is substantial.

The Heritage Conservation Society secretariat at the Museo Pambata in Rizal Park has a vast library of books, reports and periodicals on historic preservation.

Filipinos do not go to libraries either.

Being open is the best way to get good ideas. Ideas come from anywhere. The movement of a leaf in the wind can inspire a ballet. Sounds of tribal instruments can develop into a symphony. Traditional Ifugao carved motifs can inspire a range of furnishing.

Who knows what inspires good ideas?

Another reader observed, "Creativity is the backbone and the soul of any nation. It is sad that in the Philippines, it is still undefined and officially unrecognized. But thanks to cultural workers… the creative industries are slowly getting the attention they deserve."

Heritage watch

Watch out for two significant heritage publications that have been recently published.

The first publication is "Restoration of Stone and Masonry in Historic Buildings" by the National Historical Institute. This is part of the NHI's Historic Preservation Series, a much-needed series of technical books that explain the specialized construction methods required for historic preservation.

The book is not a DIY manual but it is a good guide to understanding how to conserve stone parts of structures. The publication is available at the NHI Building, on T. M. Kalaw St. near Roxas Blvd. Call 5231037, fax 5363181, or e-mail nhi@i-next.net.

The second is "Philippine Heritage Architecture" by María Cristina Turalba. The documentation of Philippine architecture will be launched at the CCP Little Theater lobby at 6 p.m. tomorrow.

The book is the output of a nationwide architectural documentation project launched in 1998 by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Center for Filipino Architecture of the United Architects of the Philippines. Architect Turalba, a professor of architecture at the University of the Philippines, took over the documentation project in 2001.

Published by Anvil and the Active Group Inc., "Philippine Heritage Architecture" will be available at major bookstores.

Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com

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WORLD HABITAT DAY

The Millennium Development Goals and the City

3 OCTOBER 2005

Philippines Celebrates World Habitat Day

The Philippines joins the rest of the world in celebrating World Habitat Day in a month-long observation which kicks off Oct. 3 and ends Oct. 28. The celebration focuses on deepening and expanding the localization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

With the theme "The Millennium Development Goals and the City", the celebration recognizes exemplary initiatives undertaken by the cities in leading the progressive realization of the MDG targets in local communities where it matters most to the people.

Recognizing that the cities, as economic, social, cultural and political hub, form the front liners in waging the fight against poverty, hunger, unsafe drinking water, diseases and urban and environmental degradation, the United Nations Habitat, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiated the localization of the MDGs in 14 cities.

Dubbed the MDG localization resource cities, these cities include Pasay, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Tagaytay, Antipolo, San Jose del Monte, Science City of Munoz, Sorsogon, Calbayog, Mandaue, Island Garden City of Samal, Iligan, Naga and Butuan. The local government units of these cities have integrated the MDGs into their city plans, budgets and programs, translating the MDG targets into local actions. An MDG score card will be used to evaluate how these LGU officials have fared in localizing the MDGs and achieving their targets.

To fund and support the project, UN Habitat and the UNDP have raised $524,000 from various sources, including the Embassies of New Zealand and Japan. Plans are underway to expand to six new cities that will geographically cover all the administrative regions in the country.

It may be recalled that during the UN General Assembly on Sept. 8, 2000, over a hundred countries, including the Philippines, adopted the Millennium Declaration. The heads of state and government reaffirmed their faith and commitment to the principles of peace, security and disarmament; development and poverty eradication; protecting the common environment; human rights, democracy and good governance; and protecting the vulnerable.

The Millennium Declaration contained commitments to achieve the MDGs: a set of eight time-bound goals aimed at wiping out poverty and the worst forms of human deprivation and attaining sustainable human development by 2015. The 8 goals, which have measurable outcomes, timelines and clear indicators for monitoring progress, include eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development.

The schedule of the month-long celebration is as follows: Celebration of World Habitat Day and press conference, with keynote address of Vice President Noli de Castro, 9 to 12 noon, Makati Shangri-la, Oct. 3;

Mainstreaming Gender in Localizing the MDGs Workshop, Almont Inland Resort, Butuan City, Oct. 4 to 6; Brown-bag seminar on MDGs and the City, Asian Development Bank, 12 noon, Oct. 7; Balanghai Summit, LGC plus 14, Butuan Convention Center, Butuan City, Oct. 10 to 13;

Pasay People's Congress, Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City (Oct. 15); HIV/AIDS Prevention in the Cities Workshop, implemented in coordination with UNAids, MMLDC, Antipolo city, Oct. 19 to 21; and A Celebration of Urban Creativity, featuring rural children from the Science City of Munoz, urban poor children from Quezon City, Manila and Marikina at the Marikina River Park, Oct. 28.

Messages

The theme of this year's World Habitat Day, "The Millennium Development Goals and the City", highlights the importance of managing rapid urbanization and reducing urban poverty.

Recent research shows that by the year 2050, 6 billion people, or two-thirds of humanity, will be living in towns and cities. If present trends continue, more than half of these people could be living in slums. On the other hand, the slums and pockets of poverty that exist even in rich countries are located in well-defined spaces where all the MDGs can be tackled together, where economies of scale can be realized, and where one intervention can have a multiplier effect.

The build-up of slums and informal settlements occurs in large part because of policies and exclusionary practices that deny public services and basic facilities—including water, sanitation, health and education—to informal settlements that are deemed illegal. Moreover, community-based efforts to redress such problems often face political and bureaucratic obstacles. But evictions and demolitions are not the answer to the challenges of rapid urbanization. We must have pro-poor, participatory urban development in which women and men are empowered to manage their communities, and where development is carried out with respect for human rights and in accordance with international law.

The lead city for this year's observance of World Habitat Day is Jakarta, chosen to highlight the cooperation that has brought relief to the survivors of last year's tsunami. In Jakarta and Banda Aceh, and in all the Indian Ocean countries hit by that catastrophe, recovery efforts are moving beyond immediate disaster mitigation and humanitarian relief, and are now focused on establishing sound physical and land-use plans and using appropriate building technologies to protect new settlements and people from similar threats in the future. This approach encompasses land and property administration, local governance, institutional development, capacity building and the special needs and concerns of women. Amid the ongoing hardship, there are signs of hope that we can help build new lives and new opportunities.

We need to give the millions of slum dwellers who are suffering from the slow-motion tsunami of rapid urbanization the same chance. On World Habitat Day, I call on the international community and all cities around the world to increase their efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular to the target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

KOFI ANNAN
UN SECRETARY GENERAL

The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October each year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of human settlements, especially the living conditions of the urban poor and their basic right to adequate shelter.

The theme of World Habitat Day this year is The Millennium Development Goals and the City.

If we can achieve the goals in our towns and cities, the impact will be enormous, especially in the burgeoning slums and informal settlements of the developing world. Already, almost half the global population lives in urban areas. And nearly a third of them, about 1 billion people, live in the unhealthy deprivation of slums. Trends show that 90 percent of global population increase in years to come will be in the cities in Africa, Asia and Latin America, where large majorities live in slums, with little access to water, sanitation and other basic services. Cities, therefore, provide an important platform for achieving the Goals.

The goals and their targets are aimed at eradicating poverty, environmental sustainability, achieving universal primary education, empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, fighting AIDS, malaria and other diseases—all features of slum life. Slum upgrading and slum prevention are, therefore, critical to attaining the goals. People in slums are crying out for implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Goal 7, Target 11 commits world leaders to achieving a "significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020." But UN-HABITAT considers this far too modest. It covers only a fraction—just 10 percent—of the world's slum dwellers. Since it was set in 2000, the global slum population has already grown by 200 million people. If current trends continue, by the 2020 target deadline, the number of slum dwellers will have reached 1.6 billion. Furthermore, individual countries have no way of determining their share of the 100 million people involved. This dictates a much broader and more ambitious approach to achieve the "Cities without Slums" target of the Millennium Declaration adopted by world leaders in September 2000.

We must understand that there will always be a continual flow of poor people into urban areas. Their considerable contribution to the economy is rarely matched by their access to services. These services require a substantial increase in pro-poor investment.

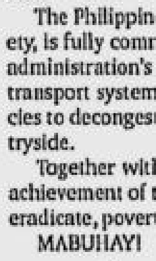
UN-Habitat's Slum Upgrading Facility is a new program to unlock capital for pro-poor investment. It promotes and coordinates partnerships to mobilize domestic and international funding for affordable low-income housing and urban infrastructure in the developing world. The quest for funding urban poverty reduction is also highlighted in our new Global Report on Human Settlements 2005 on Financing Urban Shelter. The report analyzes the impact of current shelter financing systems on low-income households. By identifying the financing mechanisms that work for the poor, this report will help governments at the central and local levels, as well as non-governmental and international organizations reduce urban poverty.

UN-Habitat is launching the global celebration of World Habitat Day in Jakarta to remind the world that countless thousands of homes were destroyed last December by the tsunami killer wave that so devastated Indonesia's Banda Aceh coastline and other Indian Ocean countries.

To date, UN-Habitat and UNDP have jointly mobilized more than $20 million for shelter and community rehabilitation in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Solutions to land tenure and relocation are central to long term recovery in these countries. UN-Habitat remains committed to seeing this recovery through.

As we come together like never before for the tsunami victims, so must we join hands and forces in making urban poverty history. We have to confront the "soft tsunamis" of our world, such as HIV/AIDS, hunger and waterborne diseases that kill thousands of victims. We must keep the Millennium promise and give all our support to the new global partnership for development—the eighth goal—between rich and poor countries.

ANNA KAJUMULO TIBAIJUKA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UN HABITAT



GREETINGS!

I join the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in the global celebration of the World Habitat Day. The theme for this year's celebration, "Millennium Development Goals and the City", reflects the important role of the cities and urban areas in enhancing local development.

The MDG, to be really meaningful, should be based on two important facts: the urbanization of poverty and the urgent need for decentralization in the country. Strategically, it is important to recognize that most of the world's population growth will occur in the cities of developing countries. The 21st century will witness massive and rapid urbanization, with 2 billion residents in cities of the developing world in the next 25 years. This exodus, though stimulated by economic development, has also led to sharp divisions in growth between cities and among social groups.

I congratulate the UN Country Team's support in localizing the MDGs. I am particularly pleased with the achievements of the 14 cities that were involved in the localization of the MDGs. Please continue your excellent efforts in demonstrating how the MDGs can be included in local development plans and budgets so that they would result to better service delivery to their constituencies.

The Philippine government, in partnership with local government and civil society, is fully committed to the attainment of its millennium development goals. My administration's 10-point legacy agenda includes the establishment of modern transport systems and decentralization of key government departments and agencies to decongest Metro Manila and promote growth and development in the countryside.

Together with our international development partners, I am committed to the achievement of the MDGs at the national and local levels to minimize, if not totally eradicate, poverty in the country.

MABUHAY!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS and the CITY
WORLD HABITAT DAY PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN
Kick-off Event and Press Conference

October 3, 2005, 9:00 am - 12:00 nn, Manila Ballroom, Makati Shangri-la Hotel

Programme

8:30 – 9:00	Registration	
9:00 – 9:05	National Anthem	
	Invocation	Mr. Rolando A. Londonio *City Cooperative Officer* *Pasay City*
9:05 – 9:10	Opening Statements The United Nations at 60 The Millennium Declaration Milestone of the MDGs+5 Summit	Dr. Zahidul Huque a.i. *UN Resident Coordinator*
	The WHD Campaign in the Philippines Localizing the MDGs in Philippine Cities	Ms. Lowie C. Rosales *UN Habitat Country Programme Coordinator*
9:15 – 9:25	Messages from the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the UN-Habitat Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka	Amb. Rosalinda Tirona *Former Ambassador to Kenya and Member of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the UN-Habitat*
9:25 – 9:40	Intermission Number	Bungkos Palay Dance Co, *Science City of Munoz*
9:40 – 9:50	Presentation of the 14 MDG Localization Resource Cities Highlights of the MDG Localization in the Cities	Hon. Ma. Lourdes C. Fernando *City Mayor, Marikina City*
9:50 -10:00	Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement for the Implementation of the Cities Alliance Project on Integrated Approach to Poverty Alleviation Reduction At the Neighborhood Level, A Cities Without Slums Approach (IMPACT)	Hon. Filipina Grace America *Infanta, Quezon* Hon. Nestor Alvarez *Science City of Munoz* Hon. Antonio V. Gonzales *San Vicente, Palawan* HUDCC *Chairperson* ADB *Representative* UN-Habitat *Representative* Puerto Princesa City *Representative* Marawi City *Representative* Valenzuela City *Representative*
10:00 – 10:30	Press Statements from MDG Stakeholders Messages of Support to WHD from Various Stakeholders in the Philippines	Mr. Kyo Naka *Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme* Hon. Angelo T. Reyes *Secretary, Dept. of the Interior and Local Government* Hon. Nerissa Corazon S. Soon-Ruiz *Member, House of Representatives Chairperson, MDG Legislative Committee* Hon. Senen Sarmiento *Secretary General, League of Cities of the Philippines* Mr. Jose Antonio T. Banson *Trustee, Philippine Business for Social Progress* Mr. Ric Domingo *Vice Chair, Luzon CPPMO Network and PUF*
10:30 – 10:40	Official Campaign Statement of the Republic of the Philippines on the World Habitat Day Campaign 2005	H.E. NOLI DE CASTRO Vice President Republic of the Philippines Chairperson, HUDCC
10:40 – 12:00	Photo Opportunities and Press Conference	

Ms. Eden Garde
Team Leader, Cities Alliance IMPACT Project
Moderator

World Habitat Day Celebration
Philippines
October 2005

September 17, 8AM	Soft launch of World Habitat Day (Guesting of Ms. Rosales, Mayor Gatlabayan of Antipolo, Mayor Sarmiento of San Jose Del Monte iin the Radio Program of VP Noli de Castro at DZMM)
October 3, 9AM	Press Conference on the Celebration of World Habitat Day and Nation-wide airing of the messages of UN Secretary General Kofi Anan and UN Habitat Executive Director, Undersecretary Anna Tibaijuka. (The national airing of UN messages on the WHD will be done through NBN 4, RPN 9, and IBC 13. It will also aired in the local cable network in the Science City of Muñoz, Naga, Calbayog, and Butuan City) The Press Conference will feature Philippine Vice President and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Noli de Castro, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government together with the mayors and local champions from the 14 MDG Localization Resource Cities. (The Press Conference will be at Makati Shangri-La, Manila.)
October 7, 11:30AM	Brown bag seminar on World Habitat Day with the theme: The Millenium Development Goals and the City (Asian Development Bank)
October 10 – 13	Balanghai Summit – LGC+14The "balanghais" are ancient boats found in Butuan City that have become the basis for the country's smallest governance unit – the barangay – or the village. They also signify the community journeys towards meeting the MDGs. The summit will draw on the local experiences of good governance, 14 years after the inception of the Local Government Code of 1991. This summit will be hosted by the City Government of Butuan in partnership with the 10-to-10 governance rights and reforms movement. The summit will feature exhibitions of MDG Localization Learning Products, Best Practices, Performances and Workshops on Social Artistry, Local Economic Development, Investing on the MDGs, Food Security and Good Governance and Future of Philippine Cities. The opening of the summit will see the launching of local and international learning products and the opening of "City Beautiful" exhibition. (Butuan Convention Center, Butuan City)
October 15, 9am-5pm	Pasay People's Congress. Presentation of family-based MDG Program (Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City)
October 19-21	HIV/AIDS Prevention in the Cities WorkshopImplemented in cooperation with UNAIDS, this workshop will signal the implementation of UN Habitat's HIV/AIDS Prevention in the Cities (An MDG 6 Localization Initiative). (MMLDC, Antipolo City) Mainstreaming Gender in Localizing the MDG in Butuan City. This workshop is in partnership with Forward –PILIPINA . CHR Caraga Region, and the City Government of Butuan (Almont Inland Resort, Butuan City)
October 28	Formal Closing of WHD Month Long Celebration: A Celebration of Urban Creativity, featuring rural children from the Science City of Muñoz, urban poor children from Quezon City and Manila City and children in difficult situations from Marikina City. (Marikina River Park, Marikina City)

The Millennium Development Goals and the City

Sharing the World Habitat Day Core Messages

The kick-off event for the month-long celebration will be on Oct. 3, 2005 with a multi-media event featuring national and local champions. October is the Local Governance Month and the Shelter Month in the Philippines, which is a relevant staging ground for reviewing the national action agenda on secure tenure through good urban governance, or the Ang Bahanggunihanan. The campaign will be sustained by a series of activities in local communities engaged in translating the global goals and targets into local actions. This will be concluded by moving forward towards forging commitments to strengthen and expand the current MDG localization effort in the country.

Partners and Cooperating Agencies: Sharing the Gains of MDG Localization

This campaign will be led by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council in partnership with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the League of Cities of the Philippines—all under the banner of the Philippine Urban Forum.

UN-Habitat will be the primary support agency together with the UN Country Team, particularly with active partner agencies such as the UNDP, UNAids, Unifem, Unicef, FAO and bilateral agencies/international development partners such as the Canadian International Development Agency, USAid, New Zealand Government, Asian Development Bank and the Government of Japan.

National partners include the University of the Philippines - National College of Public Administration and Governance, Association of Schools of Public Administration, and Urios College, Commission on Human Rights, Career Service Executive Board. Civil society groups will also be major mainstays in this month-long affair, specifically Forward Pilipina, Actors Quarters, Sining Kambayoka and the Center for Community Journalism and Development.

UN Habitat's local partners will be highlighted as MDG Localization Resource Cities. These are the cities of Pasay, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Tagaytay, Antipolo, San Jose del Monte, Science City of Munoz, Sorsogon, Calbayog, Mandaue, Island Garden City of Samal, Iligan, Naga and Butuan. UN Habitat publications on MDG localization will also be introduced through soft launches and to signal the replication and upscaling in 2006.

2015
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WORLD HABITAT DAY
The Millennium Development Goals and the City
3 OCTOBER 2005

14 Cities Profile

THE 14 RESOURCE CITIES FOR the MDG localization are exemplars of best practices in mainstreaming local plans and budgets, and improving service delivery to their constituents. At various levels of progress, they started their work in August 2004 with expressions of interest to lead in translating the global targets into local actions. Human rights and gender mainstreaming are key approaches used in their work. They have considered mainstreaming accepted human rights and gender responsive standards and the development of tools for setting local indicators. Further, they will be evaluated through a score card system by their civil society organizations and constituents on the quality of their performance. Following are highlights of their city MDGs.

1. Science City of Muñoz, Region III

The MDG localization project was launched in a city-wide consultation in February 2005. A village, Barangay Labney, was declared as the MDG convergence site. A group called the Bugkos-Palay, composed of young people was also formed and supported by the city government, to be the advocates of the MDGs through arts and culture. Muñoz is a best practice city in mainstreaming the MDGs through culture and governance.

MDG Focal Persons: **Mayor Nestor Alvarez and Councilor Myrna Corpuz**

Tel. No.: (044) 456-0028; 456-0102 Fax No.: (044) 456-5020

2. San Jose Del Monte, Region III

The city has established a Materials Recovery Facility-controlled dumpsite through microfinancing and capital infusion. Current work on the improvement of dental health and school-based nutrition program is being undertaken. Eco-partnership for air protection program and forestry and land rehabilitation are ongoing.

MDG Focal Persons: **Mayor Angelito M. Sarmiento and Augusto Rosales**

Tel. No.: (044) 691-6799 Fax No.: (044) 924-1525

3. Tagaytay City, Region IV

The city has undertaken a tree-planting program, covered in an ordinance which legislates one tree planted per every issuance/renewal of business permits/license. Construction of MRFs are also ongoing in every barangay.

MDG Focal Person: **Engineer Emilma Pello and Bernadette Aquino**

Tel. No.: (046) 413-0104 Fax No.: (046) 413-1295/860-0593/413-3400

4. Antipolo City, Region IV

The city has started the construction of more school buildings; promotion of technical schools and establishment of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Antipolo. Implementation of comprehensive child and maternal health care program and supplemental feeding program are ongoing. The city is also a best practice area for its literacy and environmental programs.

MDG Focal Person: **Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan and EnP. Michael Stephen Siason** Tel. No.: (02) 697-1021/697-6930 Fax No.: 697-6930/697-0921

5. Marikina City, NCR

Marikina city is implementing a women empowerment program called "Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Mrs." The city has an advocacy campaign for a one-job-per-family program. It is also known for its campaign on increasing the city's literacy rate through the "zero non-reader" in Marikina. It is also known as a sustainable and healthy city.

MDG Focal Person: Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando, Engineer June Aguilar and Millette Lorenzo; Tel. No.: (02) 646-1634 Fax No.: (02) 646-5277/682-9571

6. Pasay City, NCR

The city is implementing a family-based poverty profiling through a community-based monitoring system and fact-based intervention exchange project. Known for its savings mobilization program, the city has expanded to include youth empowerment through a self-help operation—a savings mobilization program being done in public high schools.

MDG Focal Person: **Mayor Peewee Trinidad and Rolando Londonio**

Tel. No.: (02) 831-5222/831-3744 Fax No.: (02) 551-3747/551-5233

7. Muntinlupa City, NCR

The city is implementing self-employment through sustainable livelihood and enterprise community development. It has also established a Center for Entrepreneurial Development that seeks to promote one product per *barangay*. The city has also undertaken an AIDS/STD prevention and control program.

MDG Focal Person: **Mayor Jaime Fresnedi and lawyer Henry Reyes**

Tel. No.: (02) 543-0810 Fax No.: (02) 862-5316

8. Naga City, Region V

The first MDG Resource City, Naga has spearheaded the process of mainstreaming the MDGs in local plans and budgets through a participatory approach. The Naga experience will be shared through the publication of an MDG Localization tool kit and the implementation of Report Score Card System.

MDG Focal person: **Mayor Jesse Robredo and Frank Mendoza**

Tel. No.: (054) 473-2954/472-7955 Fax No.: (054) 811-1286

9. Sorsogon City, Region V

The city is undertaking a people-centered empowerment program through value formation and basic and continuing education. It has established the Zero Waste Management in a village, Barangay Tugos. The city has also built a counseling house for women in difficult circumstances called the GAD-Balay Bukas Palad. A gender responsive, results-oriented health budget is being crafted for 2006.

MDG Focal Person: **Mayor Sally Lee and Orlando Huenda**

Tel. No.: (056) 211-1353/211-1335/211-7950 Fax No.: (056) 211-4286

10. Mandaue City, Region VII

The city has undertaken a program that will reduce prevalence of STIs among vulnerable groups. The city is also known for providing secure tenure to the homeless and their transformation into empowered communities.

MDG Focal Person: **Mayor Thadeo Ouano and Serafin Blanco**

Tel. No.: (032) 345-1527/344-1021/346-0784 Fax No.: (032) 345-2799/345-0339

11. Calbayog City, Region VIII

The city has undertaken institutional development programs within the government to respond to the MDGs. Key departments are being mobilized to improve service delivery. One example is the women empowerment program and services which focuses on capability-building and skills development of marginalized women and youth.

MDG Focal Person: **Mayor Mel Senen Sarmiento and Virgilio Tomnob**

Tel. No.: (055) 209-1146/312-5729 Fax No.: 209-1725

12. Iligan City, Region X

The city has established a livelihood program through cooperative development and microfinance. The city has passed a Barangay Micro Business Enterprise Law. It has also strengthened the city women council and the women advocate desk.

MDG Focal Person: **Mayor Lawrence Cruz and Architect Gil Balando**

Tel. No.: (063) 221-6758 Fax No.: (063) 221-9060

13. Island Garden City of Samal, Region XI

The city is implementing a food security program through the improvement of productivity and sustainability in agrifishery development. Small and medium enterprise development; and cooperative development are ongoing.

MDG Focal Person: **Mayor Antalan and City Administrator Jon Galez**

Tel. No.: (082) 227-0962/227-0963 Fax No.: (082) 227-0964

14. Butuan City, Region XIII

The city has launched an MDG Park which will serve as "one-stop shop" for all MDG related products and services. It will be co-managed by eight contiguous *barangays* with the support from the city government.

MDG Focal Person: **Mayor Democrito Plaza II and engineer Antenedo Milloren and Rizalina "Tata" Cuizon**

Tel. No.: (085) 225-5737/342-3074 Fax No.: (085) 225-5737

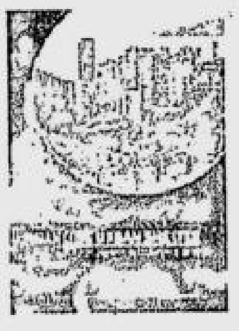
MDG Second Business Meeting, Muñoz

MDG cities 3rd Business Meeting, San Jose del Monte

BARANGAY Labney, Muñoz: Rep. Mayong Agujo, UNRC Deborah Landey, Vice President Noli de Castro and Mayor Nestor Alvarez

MAYOR Mel Sarmiento in one of his visits to the barangays to advocate elected officials on the MDG

BUTUAN Covenant Signing



GLOBAL REPORT ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS 2005

By 2030, an additional 3 billion people, about 40% of the world's population, to need housing

IN A WORLD ON THE MOVE, where already about 3 billion people, or 50 percent of the world population, live in urban areas, UN-Habitat predicts that over the next 25 years, over 2 billion people will be added to the growing demand for housing, water supply, sanitation and other urban infrastructure services. What is critical when considering this number is the order of magnitude. Close to 3 billion people, or about 40 percent of the world's population by 2030, will need to have housing and basic infrastructure services. This translates into completing 96,150 housing units per day or 4000 per hour.

The housing crisis is already with us. The large scale evictions in the urban areas of Zimbabwe, or those in Mumbai or Malawi are all part of a larger problem of financing urban shelter. The increasing pressure for housing finance is being felt all over the world.

- In Peru, 82 percent of the 8 million people living in greater Lima are classified as poor. At least half of poor households and 60 percent of the poorest households express a strong desire to expand or improve their home within the next 12 months. However, only 10 to 15 percent are borrowing from formal or informal sources.
- In Indonesia, during 2000, the country's urban population of 85 million already represented 40 percent of the total. By 2010 it will represent 50 percent, with 120 million people. Annual projections for housing needs for the next 10 years are approximately 735,000 new units and an additional 420,000 in need of improvement. 70 to 80 percent of all housing in Indonesia is constructed informally, with minimal access to formal financial markets.
- In Morocco, two surveys found that 88 percent of households have or are planning a productive activity in the home and more than 83 percent of households want to take a loan to finance home improvement, but 93 percent of households did not have access to formal finance and had to resort to other means.

UN-Habitat's Global Report on Human Settlements 2005: Financing Urban Shelter examines the challenges of financing urban shelter development, focusing on the shelter needs of the poor and within the overall context of the United Nations Millennium Development target on slums. If adequate financial resources are not invested in the development of urban shelter and requisite services, this additional population will also be trapped in urban poverty, deplorable housing conditions, poor health and low productivity, thus further compounding the enormous slum challenge that exists today.

The housing crisis comes at a time when the global economy has demonstrated a consistent growth of 4 percent in 2004, however, despite this impressive growth, poverty remains an "enduring problem" as approximately 64 percent of the population in Africa and South Asia still live below US$2 a day. Most critically, such low incomes prevent the poor from accessing better shelter.

In many developing countries, it is unlikely that conventional sources of funds will be available for investment on the scale needed to meet the projected demand for urban infrastructure and housing. Most poorly-performing countries continue to face deficits in public budgets and weak financial sectors. Additionally, the Report says that Overseas Development Assistance extended to these countries has not been significant enough to contribute positively to improving urban infrastructure services and housing. Instead, city authorities have started to seek finance in national and global markets, but this practice is only in its Infancy. The report concludes that countries and cities will have to rely mainly on the savings of their citizens:

The report shows that mortgage finance has been expanding during the last decade and is increasingly available in many countries, which was not the case 20 years ago. New mortgage providers have emerged, including commercial financial institutions and mortgage companies. However, the report emphasizes that only the middle and upper income households have access to such finance while the poor are generally excluded. While in some countries there is evidence of a new (and emerging) middle class, particularly in China and India, in other countries, the middle class has actually disappeared joining the poor. As a result, the Report points out that the problem in many developing countries and even in some developed countries is not that housing is too expensive, but that incomes are too low.

Therefore the report argues for the continuing and necessary contribution of the public sector towards financing shelter for the urban poor, as many households, even in developed countries, cannot afford home ownership or market rents. While social housing is becoming less important in Europe and in countries with economies in transition, the need to provide shelter that is affordable to low-income households still exists, including in developing countries.

Complete houses available through mortgage finance are well beyond the reach of the lower income groups, because they are unable to meet the deposit and income criteria set by conventional mortgage institutions. Instead, the report describes the innovative, "informal" ways that the poor finance the construction and improvement of their homes. Poor people's access to shelter finance may depend upon social networks based on religion, family or ethnicity. In this situation, the majority of urban poor households can only afford to build incrementally in stages, as and when financial resources become available.

In response to this, microfinance institutions have started lending for low-income shelter development and have become very important in the last decade or so. The report also shows that guarantee schemes can, by providing credit enhancement, go a long way in broadening the appeal of microfinance institutions to lenders.

Another important trend in the last decade has been increasing interest in shelter community funds, which are often linked to housing cooperatives as well as rotating savings and credit societies. Community-based financing of housing and services has been used for both settlement upgrading and for building new housing on serviced sites. It has also been used to enhance the access of poor households to housing subsidies by providing bridge financing. The report concludes that, in light of the general success of small loans and the increasing urbanization of poverty, community funds have many advantages for low-income households.

Constraints to mobilizing financial resources for investment in

GLOBAL/F4

Messages

MABUHAY!

The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Joins the entire global community in celebrating World Habitat Day, sponsored by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

The theme for this year's celebration, "The Millennium Development Goals and the City," is very timely, as we begin to pursue sustainable urbanization. We in HUDCC take this commitment very seriously as part of our duty to the nation. Together with the key shelter agencies, we are at the forefront of the country's efforts to meet the specific MDG target of making a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers worldwide by the year 2020.

Just recently, we have revised the guidelines of the Community Mortgage Program to facilitate the provision of land tenure security to the informal settlers. We are also setting up the appropriate mechanisms to provide shelter financing to the bottom 30 percent of the population by establishing the Social Housing Finance Corporation. We are working closely with the private sector, international development partners and the basic sectors to support local communities in the quest for adequate, decent and secure shelter.

The MDGs represent our highest human aspirations to uphold the dignity and uplift the lives of our less fortunate brethren. Reaching these goals is not an easy task. We have made significant steps in the right direction, but we need to be constantly vigilant, judicious, committed and, above all, united in order to sustain our efforts and build on our gains.

Let us work together for the good of the Filipino and the human race.

NOLI DE CASTRO
VICE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Chairman, HUDCC

The United Nations family in the Philippines will kick off in October the month-long celebration of World Habitat day, with its theme The Millennium Development Goals and the City. This is in recognition of the key role of cities and urban areas as economic, social and cultural hubs and resources for the concerted attack against poverty, illiteracy, hunger, unsafe water, disease, and environmental degradation.

The Millennium Development Goals are a set of eight time-bound, concrete and specific targets aimed at significantly reducing, if not decisively eradicating poverty, by the year 2015. Briefly, these Goals are: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and empowering women; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; combating HIV /AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and, developing global partnerships for development.

The Philippines is unique in that it is fairly advanced in localizing the MDGs. These experiences and best practices have been captured in the MDG Resource Cities pilot project involving the Department of Interior and Local Government [DILG], 14 pilot cities, and the United Nations through the UN Development Programme and UN-Habitat. The pilot cities are Antipolo, Calbayog, Iligan, Island Garden of Samal, Mandaue, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Pasay, San Jose del Monte, Tagaytay, Sorsogon, Naga City and the Science City of Muñoz [Nueva Ecija].

DR. ZAHIDUL HUQUE
UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR a.i.

On behalf of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), I join the whole world in observance of World Habitat Day on October 3, 2005. Today's celebration of World Habitat Day, with the theme, "The Millennium Development Goals and the City", is a recognition of the key role of the city in MDG localization.

As the economic, social and cultural hub of a province, or a region for that matter, the city has the capacity to undertake exemplary initiatives in translating the set of eight MDG goals into local actions.

As we move towards deepening and expanding localization of the MDGs, the city comes into focus as a highly potent medium to lead in addressing poverty, illiteracy, hunger, unsafe water, disease and urban and environmental degradation.

The DILG as the primary national government agency working with the LGUs, is fully committed to pursue all efforts to attain benchmarks in improving human life, as embodied in the eight key MDG goals.

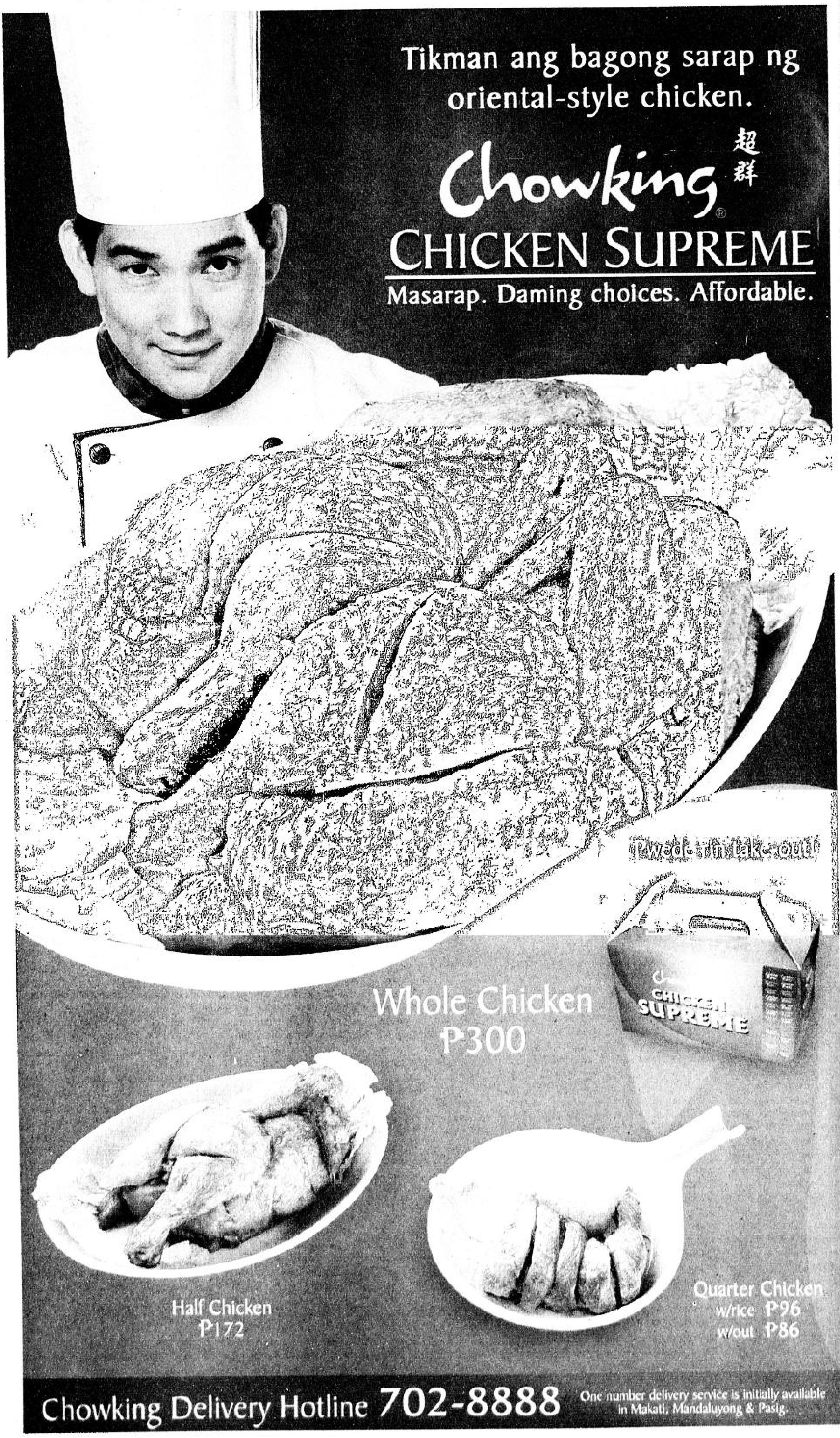
Towards this end, the Department has issued Memorandum-Circular #2004-152 to Guide Local Government Units in the Localization of Millennium Development Goals, providing among other things, options to LGUs to respond to the MDGs.

Meeting the requirements of the MDGs entails sustained collaborative efforts and consistent with its vision of excellence in local governance, the DILG continues to work hand in hand with the major stakeholders—national and local government units, to affirm and reinforce the agreements on the goals and target of the Millennium Summit.

As we go into the month-long campaign in celebration of World Habitat Day, which coincides with the Local Government Month, we envision a strengthened and expanded MDG Localization effort with more cities, municipalities, provinces and *barangays* committing increased resources and aligning their plans in meeting the MDGs.

MABUHAY!

ANGELO T. REYES
DILG SECRETARY


Tikman ang bagong sarap ng oriental-style chicken.
Chowking 超群
CHICKEN SUPREME
Masarap. Daming choices. Affordable.
Pwede rin itake-out!
CHICKEN SUPREME
Whole Chicken ₱300
Half Chicken ₱172
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shelter development are both financial and non-financial in nature. Non-financial constraints include land legislation that makes it difficult to use real estate as effective collateral, as well as inappropriate national and local regulatory frameworks governing land use, occupancy and ownership. In light of this, the report analyzes the role of secure tenure in housing finance and highlights the need for legal and institutional reform designed to protect the rights of both lenders and borrowers as well as to enhance access to credit.

Finally, Financing Urban Shelter: Global Report on Human Settlements 2005 emphasizes the fact that finance is only one dimension of securing sustainable solutions that can fill the gap between the two extreme outcomes of current systems and processes: affordable shelter that is inadequate; and adequate shelter that is not affordable. The report, therefore, concludes that the locus of policy attention should be on both the cost of housing (the supply side) and the level of payment received by workers (the demand side). Financing Urban Shelter: Global Report on Human Settlements 2005 will help governments, local authorities and all Habitat Agenda Partners to identify opportunities for addressing the shelter affordability gap and to put in place financing mechanisms that are more able to meet the shelter needs of the urban poor.

Keep the promise!
WORLD HABITAT DAY
The Millennium Development Goals and the City
3 OCTOBER 2005